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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

After you buy a new computer, what do you do with the old one?

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6 DAYS until Sept. 16, when Aggreko generators are to start working

INSIDE

Iraq Pullout
President Bush will pull about 8,000 troops home by February.
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Deadly Storm
Hurricane Ike roared down Cuba, forcing 1.2 million people to evacuate and killing at least four.
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Oscar Bet
The last time a movie topped a half-billion dollars at the box office, it sailed away with most of the Oscars.
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NMC regent Lizama resigns. **PAGE 3**
Doctor: CNMI lacking hospice, palliative care. **PAGE 7**

100-plus join planned class action lawsuit over bonds

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

More than 100 foreign workers have signed up to take part in a class action lawsuit that aims to compel the CNMI Department of Labor to enforce administrative orders directing insurance companies to pay their surety bond claims.

Labor has recently adopted a policy of telling workers to pursue payment on unpaid orders—administrative decisions handed down by the department—in small claims court rather through its offices. Many of these workers are seeking

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Tinian lawmakers drain entire $246K allowance

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian lawmakers have drawn down their entire annual allowance for fiscal year 2008, getting nearly $250,000 in "unauditable" taxpayer funds, government records show.

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BREAKDOWN

Rep. Edwin Aldan	Sen. Jude Hofschneider	Sen. Joseph Mendiola	Sen. Henry San Nicolas
$66,000	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000

PSS lacks required sanitation permits

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While Gov. Benigno Fitial has lifted the executive order to allow four schools—Marianas High School, Kagman Elementary, Koblerville Elementary and Oleai Head Start—to start classes today, the Public School System does not have

See PSS on Page 4

'Generators are too little too late'

RELATED NEWS

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- **OPINION:** Celebrate Citizenship Day with a rally! **PAGE 13**

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Propst

The planning of a word-of-mouth rally to get the federal government involved in solving Saipan's power crisis is underway, even as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. released a

See GENERATORS on Page 4

SEAT PLAN
Public School System school bus driver Frank Borja secures the seating arrangement of students before departing the Oleai Elementary School yesterday afternoon. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hans Mickelson

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Local

Last day for voter registration on Monday

The last day for voter registration for the 2008 general election is Monday next week, Sept. 15, 2008, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

In a statement issued yesterday, it said any person who is qualified to vote may register during government workdays from 7:30am to 4:30pm at the commission's office at 1313, Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan.

Eligible voters on Rota may register with Miranda V. Manglona or Josepha A. Barcinas. Tinian residents may register with Jose P. Kiyoshi or Mary B. Diaz. Residents of the islands north of Saipan may contact the commission via the government radios maintained at EMO.

Voter registration is also conducted from 9am to 3pm on Saturday at PriceCostco in Oleai, Saipan. The last day for the PriceCostco voter registration is this Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008.

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Eligible voters who are outside the Commonwealth may go to www.votecnmi.gov.mp to download the required registration forms. Eligible voters who are homebound and require assistance registering to vote may contact the commission for further information.

A person is eligible to vote who, on Nov. 4, 2008, is 18 years of age or older, is domiciled in the Commonwealth, has

See LAST on Page 4

Woman urges court to declare missing domestic partner dead

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman has asked the Superior Court to declare dead her domestic partner who has been missing since last January when a big wave swept him and his companion from the cliff line at Marine Beach in Kagman.

Frauline T. Chisato asked the court to declare Skaruno M. Renguul deceased for the purpose of obtaining a death certificate.

Chisato was the unmarried domestic partner of Renguul, a 48-year-old Palauan. They had four children.

Attorney Ed Peterson of the Micronesian Legal Services Corp.-Marianas Office stated in court documents that Chisato was the unmarried domestic partner of Renguul from 1983 until the time of his disappearance on Jan. 20, 2008.

Peterson said Renguul had gone to the cliff line at Marine Beach to hunt for crabs. While he and fishing partner Frank Leon Guerrero were making their way back to Marine Beach, a big wave swept them out to open water.

Peterson said the two managed to climb back up onto the rocks but another wave came crashing in and swept them back into the water.

Leon Guerrero managed to climb back onto the rocks and for 30 to 40 minutes yelled out Renguul's name, but there was no reply and he was nowhere to be found.

Leon Guerrero swam back toward the rocks and hurried back to Marine Beach to call for help.

A search and rescue operation was conducted by the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section, the Emergency Management Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, CNMI Fire Division Search and Rescue Unit, the CNMI Dive Rescue Team, and the U.S. Navy and various friends and family members.

Peterson said no one found a trace of Renguul.

"Being swept out along the cliff line at Marine Beach by a huge rogue wave, Renguul was exposed to the specific life-threatening perils of drowning or being dashed against rocks and suffering injuries of death and or subsequent drowning," the lawyer said.

Leon Guerrero, 38, suffered minor abrasions and scratches to the lower back and right elbow as well as fluid in the lungs.

Overstaying alien worker surfaces due to ill health

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ordered the deportation of an alien worker who, after overstaying in the CNMI for over eight months, surfaced due to an illness.

Wiseman issued the deportation of 29-year-old Jin Lu following Lu's and the Division of Immigration Services' stipulation that he is a deportable alien.

Assistant attorney general Kathleen Busenkell is the legal counsel for Immigration. Lu has no lawyer.

Lu did not dispute that he is a Chinese national and a deportable alien in that he overstayed his nonresident entry permit.

According to Immigration investigator John Peter, the respondent's nonresident worker's entry permit expired on Nov. 15, 2007.

In court papers, Peter said Lu came in to the Attorney General's Investigation Unit's office to seek help because he is very sick and does not have the money to buy an airline ticket to go home.

Lu did not contest to being deported because he wants to see a doctor in China as soon as possible. The nature of his illness was not indicated in court documents.

Labor records show that the alien worker used to be an embroidery operator helper for Zhang's Corp. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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NMC regent Lizama resigns

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Linsa F. Lizama has resigned from the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents.

Gov. Benigno Fitial received her resignation last week, said Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office.

Board chair Charles Cepeda said Lizama resigned due to family health problems. She has been off island for the last few months dealing with a health issue.

"That's why her resignation wasn't a surprise," he said.

A phone number for Lizama in the U.S. mainland could not be located.

With six regents, the board still has the minimum number of members needed to conduct business. Four members are needed to make a quorum, Cepeda said.

The board has asked the Governor to expedite the process of finding a replacement, Cepeda said.

"We would like to get the new member on the board so we can continue the process and get into the swing of things," he added.

The board is continuing to focus on NMC's accreditation status, Cepeda said. NMC has been on probation since February 2007 and was put on show-cause in February this year because, according to Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, the school did not address previous concerns.

Lizama's resignation will not have a negative effect on the board's functions, but her educational background will be missed, Cepeda said.

"Linsa is an educator, that is why she was useful and informative," he added.

Board members, Cepeda said, would like to find someone with a background in education, or someone who has knowledge of the Board's functioning.

Reyes said the Governor would meet with advisors and seek recommendations for possible candidates.

Manpower shortage, outages, school opening make cops' job more difficult

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The manpower shortage, coupled with constant outages during the first days of public school opening, has been draining the Department of Public Safety's staff that even police officers from the Boating Safety and Armory section are being deployed to the streets.

DPS police operations chief Capt. Lawrence Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that they are currently facing a shortage of officers because some were deployed to the Middle East, but the frequent outages and the school opening is making it more difficult for them.

Camacho said they have been monitoring the traffic flow at schools that experienced traffic congestions in the past. These included Hopwood Junior High School, Garapan Elementary School, and San Vicente Elementary School.

The police operations chief said the eventual opening of four other schools—Marianas High School, Kagman Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, and Oleai Head Start—would pose another challenge for DPS with respect to monitoring traffic in those areas.

Camacho said the frequent outages have also prompted DPS to assign traffic police officers at major traffic intersections on the island. He said officers from Patrol, Boating Safety, and even from Armory are also being fielded in the streets.

"It's very difficult. What if there is a distressed boat going on?" Camacho said.

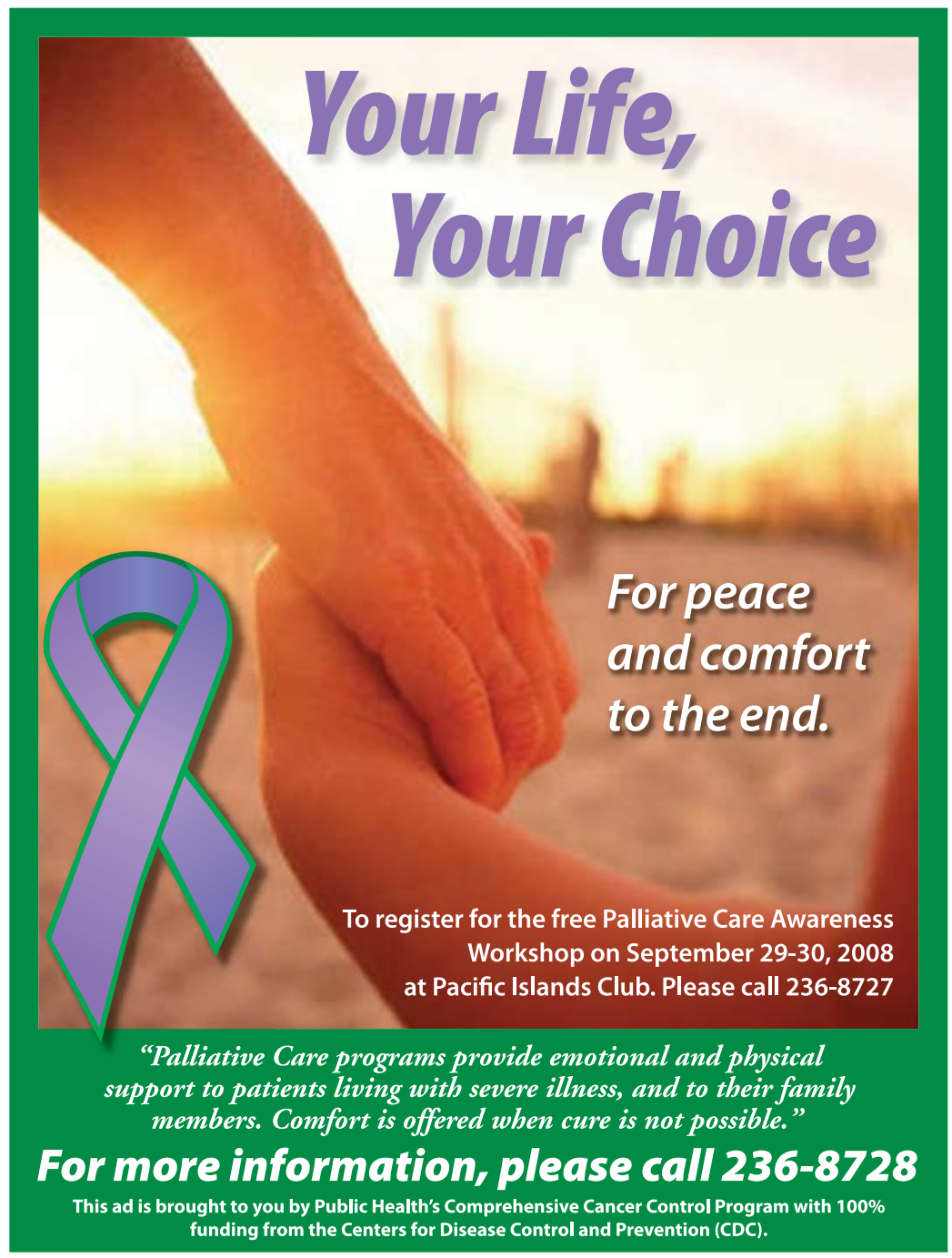
He said he would just summon whoever is available under his command to assist in responding to complaints on the streets or in villages.

"I usually use Armory and Boating Safety officers to cover the space when there are other complaints, to pick up the slack when Patrol and Traffic officers are busy," Camacho said.

He said they are really hoping that the police academy is done so they can utilize the new graduates.

The police captain said the first two days of school opening of public schools went smoothly except for some complaints of traffic congestion, especially when it is raining.

"If it is raining we don't deploy our officers because it is very risky for them, too," Camacho said.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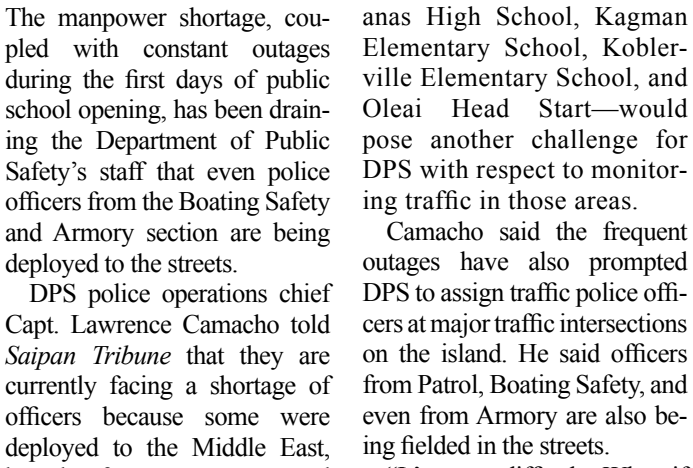

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Lump sum budget eyed for Governor's Office

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will be free to decide how much money will go to each agency under his wing if the Legislature adopts a proposal to grant a lump-sum appropriation for the Executive Branch.

The House Ways and Means Committee, according to chair Victor Hocog, is studying whether to draft an appropriation bill that specifies only the funding level for the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, the Judiciary and the Legislature, while allowing the governor to allocate the budget of the Executive Branch.

With the government's meager resources, Hocog said, "the governor may be the best to determine how the money should be distributed to the departments and agencies."

The House of Representatives is expected to act today on a House concurrent resolution setting the government's spending limit for the 2009 fiscal year at $156.7 million. This represents a decrease of over $6 million from the current budget level.

In addition to the lump-sum appropriation for the central government, the committee is discussing whether to adopt cost-cutting measures such as the biweekly government shutdown—also known as "austerity Fridays"—and the no-work-no-pay policy during government holidays except Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Hocog said his committee will work on the appropriation bill as soon as the resource level has been finalized. He expressed hope that the bill would be ready for introduction on the House floor next week.

LAST DAY

From Page 2

resided in the Commonwealth for 120 days prior to the day of election, is not serving a sentence for a felony conviction, has not been declared by a court to be judicially insane, and is either a citizen or national of the United States as defined in the Northern Marianas Islands Constitution.

Previously registered voters who failed to vote in 2007 regular general election must re-register to be eligible to vote in the 2008 general election.

Anyone requiring voter registration information may call the commission's office at 664-VOTE (8683) or by sending electronic mail to cec@votecnmi.gov.mp or info@votecnmi.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

PSS

From Page 1

the necessary sanitation permits as required by law.

Fitial cancelled the executive order, the shortest during his administration, after the Department of Public Health was satisfied with water quality tests conducted Monday at the schools.

But under the Commonwealth Environmental Health and Sanitation Act of 2000, a health inspector must visit all schools—public or private, kindergarten through college—and declare the school sanitary before the school is allowed to purchase a permit.

"It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or open…the businesses without a valid and current sanitary permit for such establishment or activity," the law states.

The permits cost $50, according to the Bureau of Environmental Health.

"It's always been required, but PSS never paid for the permits," said Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

If permits had been issued and violations occurred, DPH and BEH could have shut the affected schools down without an executive order by the governor, Villagomez said.

The issue is not money, Villagomez said, but rather the need for the schools to know what is required of them.

"Fees are a non-issue," he said. "The sanitary permit gives them protocol and everyone will be on top of it."

Education Commissioner Rita Sablan and Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita said they were unaware of the lack of permits.

Repeated calls to the Bureau of Environmental Health, which issues the permits, were not returned yesterday.

According to the law, permits must be renewed annually. Before a permit is granted, an inspector must visit the location and verify sanitation requirements. Once a permit is granted, the health inspector conducts a site assessment at least once every six months, unless otherwise noted.

Lynn Tenorio, Deputy Secretary for Public Health Administration, said some schools would call and request inspections on their own, and BEH would visit each school at least twice a year.

According to the law, health inspectors will check for water supply adequacy in quantity and quality; sewage and waste disposal; cleanliness of the facility and premises; protection of equipment and other materials from dirt and contamination; maintenance of equipment; restroom facilities; control and exclusion of insects and rodents; and infectious disease control.

Fitial passed the executive order Sunday night, delaying the start of the four schools after the results of water quality tests did not come back in time. Last week Fitial asked DPH to establish a task force to check the preparedness of the public schools in light of the island's continuing power outages.

Fitial had earlier ask the Board of Education to consider pushing back the start of school until power was stabilized, but the board decided to start the year as scheduled.

GENERATORS

From Page 1

new load shedding schedule yesterday.

Approximately 29 megawatts of power were produced yesterday afternoon, with CUC producing 14.5 megawatts at Power Plants 1 and 2, the most that has been produced in the last few weeks. The increase in power allowed CUC to reduce the outages to two hours a day for one time during a 24-hour period for most locations. The Aggreko generators, producing 15 megawatts, are expected to be turned on Friday and reach full capacity by Sept. 16 or 17.

But local businessman Ed Propst said it's too little too late, and the emergency generators are just a band-aid solution.

"It is clear to us that after millions of dollars have been pumped into CUC, it is at its all time worst," he said.

A rally is planned for Sept. 17 to bring attention to the problems plaguing CUC, Propst said. Text messages have been flowing throughout the island with the news. Propst is also sending e-mails, calling friends, writing letters, and visiting neighborhoods to get the word out.

Propst is seeking federal intervention under the Stanford Act, a law that allows for the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to request federal intervention during times of a major disaster.

The governor of the affected state must make the request stating that the magnitude of the disaster is beyond the capabilities of the local and state government.

On Aug. 1, Gov. Benigno Fitial declared a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI, citing that one of the power engines at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 1 in Lower Base could explode at any time, maiming or killing power plant workers. Fitial extended the declaration last week for 31 days.

Propst does not think all CUC employees are to blame, though, he said.

"I've found a lot of people at CUC are competent," he said. "The front line people are the glue that is holding it together. It's the management that is incompetent."

The rally is being held on Sept. 17 because it is U.S. Citizenship Day, he said.

"At the end of the day, we're still Americans," he added. "Although we're thousands of miles away, these are deplorable conditions we're living in. The fact of the matter is this is a humanitarian disaster."

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said Fitial's emergency declaration has expedited the arrival of the Aggreko generators, and the governor has a long-term plan, including privatization and alternative power sources, for CUC once the emergency generators stabilize the power.

A press conference for the rally is scheduled today at 3:30pm at the Garapan Fishing base, while the rally is scheduled for 5:30pm, Sept. 17, at the same location.

TINIAN

From Page 1

A report from the Division of Finance and Accounting, a copy of which was obtained through an Open Government Request Act by a Tinian citizen, showed that Tinian's three senators and sole representative had drawn down the maximum allowance permitted each lawmaker.

Rep. Edwin Aldan took $5,500 a month, or $66,000 for the entire year. Senators Jude Hofschneider, Joseph Mendiola, and Henry San Nicolas each took $5,000 a month, or $60,000 for FY2008. In total, the four lawmakers drew down $246,000 this year.

A lawmaker's annual salary is $39,000.

The subsistence allowance is provided to House members from Rota and Tinian, and all of the senators. It was created to help them pay for travel and other expenses related to legislative business conducted away from their home island. Lawmakers are not required to account for the money and return what has not been used.

Information on the allowance disbursed to the Rota lawmakers is not available at press time. None of the current Saipan senators reportedly has claimed subsistence allowance.

Don Farrell, the Tinian resident who requested the data on his lawmakers' allowance, has asked the federal government to look into the use of the legislators' allowance.

"Because they all drew down every penny of their entire annual allowance, before the end of the fiscal year, without submitting appropriate receipts, it is questionable as to how much of these public funds have been spent in the best interest of the CNMI and how much has been spent for their personal business," Farrell said in a letter to the Saipan-based representatives of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"These legislators are free to use these funds in any way they please: to pay their monthly CUC bills, to pay other people's CUC bills, to buy gas for their cars, to pay their cable bills, to travel freely in any manner they please—in other words, for their personal use. Therefore, the allotment has become personal income in addition to their annual salary and benefits," Farrell added.

He asked the DOI officials to forward the information to the appropriate U.S. federal agency to see if the legislators should be paying annual income tax on their allowance.

In an interview, Aldan said that, although it is not required, he keeps receipts of every expense paid with his subsistence allowance. He also said that he only uses his allowance for official business, such as traveling to Saipan for legislative meetings.

Aldan said the government is saving money from paying lawmakers a monthly $5,000 allowance, instead of paying them per diem plus expenses each time they travel from their home island.

"If we do this on a daily basis, it will cost more. For example, it is more practical for us to rent a house here than stay in a hotel each time we come to Saipan. Expenses like that come on top of the per diem," said Aldan.

A roundtrip air ticket between Tinian and Saipan costs about $60. For a roundtrip between Rota and Saipan, a ticket costs about $200.

The central government pays employees a per diem rate of $85 a day for official travel within the Commonwealth.

The Office of the Public Auditor has questioned the lawmakers' allowance for five years. In 2003, OPA made a recommendation for the Senate, in particular, to pass a law authorizing the subsistence allowance and justifying the amount given to the Senate members. Currently, the allowance is provided through internal rules adopted by the each chamber of the Legislature.

The Senate has refused to comply with OPA's recommendation. As of June 2, 2008, the audit recommendation remains unresolved. OPA said the Office of the Attorney General is expected to issue an opinion on the legality of the issue.

100-PLUS

From Page 1

payments from insurance companies on surety bonds, which are intended to provide them back wages and other expenses in the event the businesses where they work falter.

Department officials have previously said the new policy is an improvement because the courts have authority to enforce orders that is beyond the scope of Labor's powers. Obtaining payments under an order, they have also said, is ultimately the responsibility of the worker involved.

However, critics of Labor's policy, including labor activists and CNMI Reps. Tina Sablan (I-Saipan) and Edward Salas (R-Saipan), say this policy places an undue burden on workers. The lawmakers recently touched on the issue in a letter to Labor.

Now foreign workers with unpaid surety bond claims have organized to file a suit against Labor in a bid to compel it to enforce the administrative orders it issued directing insurance companies to pay them.

In an interview Tuesday, labor activist Irene Tantiado, former president of the United Coalition of Workers, pointed to a copy of a surety bond agreement she had obtained as evidence of the workers' claims in the case.

"In the first paragraph, it says the company is bound with the Secretary of Labor," she said, adding that, after reviewing local laws with attorneys, it appears "Labor is the one who should enforce and they should not be passing that responsibility onto another party like the courts."

By directing workers to small claims court, she said, Labor is "protecting the bonding companies at the expense of the workers."

Tantiado and attorneys began collecting plaintiffs in the soon-to-be-filed case last month. In addition to the more than 100 participants they have now secured for the suit, she hopes to have an additional 100 by the self-imposed cutoff date they have set for workers to join, Sept. 30. To take part in the suit, she said, workers must have an unpaid administrative order issued within the last six years.

In response, Deputy Labor Secretary Cinta Kaipat noted that in litigation several years ago, the CNMI's Supreme Court "chastised" Labor for previously attempting to enforce administrative orders on its own. She also defended Labor's policies as more effective than departmental enforcement.

"If anything, it takes it up a notch," she said. "We cannot go over there and force a bond company to pay; that's a step for the courts. Administratively, we do all we can to ensure employers are ordered to pay."

Kaipat added that Labor is working with the Department of Commerce to crack down on surety bond companies that often fail to pay claims and has provided assistance to workers in the form of court fee waivers and informational packets to help them pursue payments.

Benavente says lost Labor revenue won't justify suit

The millions of dollars that the CNMI's government could lose if the pending federal takeover of local regulations for foreign workers forces the Department of Labor to close is insufficient justification for Gov. Benigno Fitial's plan to file suit against federal authorities in a bid to block it, Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said Tuesday.

In an interview, Benevente, chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations, responded to estimates detailed in a Sept. 8 letter sent him by Deputy Labor Secretary Cinta Kaipat suggesting the so-called "federalization" of local immigration could cost the CNMI's government up to $4.4 million each year in revenues.

"I don't dispute that there will be some revenue loss once federalization kicks in," Benevente said. "My concern is that the original letter [sent by the Department of Labor] talked about the loss but conveniently left out the other half of the story. The information we're getting now continues to be propaganda to get us to support the lawsuit."

Fitial in a statement earlier this year said he is poised to file suit against the federal government over "federalization," which many local business leaders have said threatens to damage the local economy.

Labor's potential revenue losses, Benevente added, are "a very good point, but I don't think it's enough to justify a lawsuit against the U.S. government. Unless we can argue on the authority of the federal government to take over our labor and immigration, then we don't have a justification to sue."

Kaipat in the letter said that federal authority over local labor rules could force her department to close, thereby cutting back yearly government spending by $1.7 million. However, she noted that Labor can generate up to an estimated $6.1 million in revenue each year for the government, meaning federalization would ultimately cost the CNMI up to $4.4 million annually.

The federal takeover would not involve the section of Labor that deals with employment services for U.S. citizens and permanent residents, she added, so at least part of Labor's budget cannot be included in these estimates.

Kaipat's letter comes only days after one she sent to members of the CNMI Legislature Sept. 2 detailing the potential fallout in terms of lost revenues from the Labor Department that federalization could cause.

"Over five years, we will lose approximately $20 million in revenues that would otherwise be used for Commonwealth public services," she wrote. "We will lose these funds at a time when we need revenues to help the Commonwealth recover from the economic depression that we have been suffering over the past three years." ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

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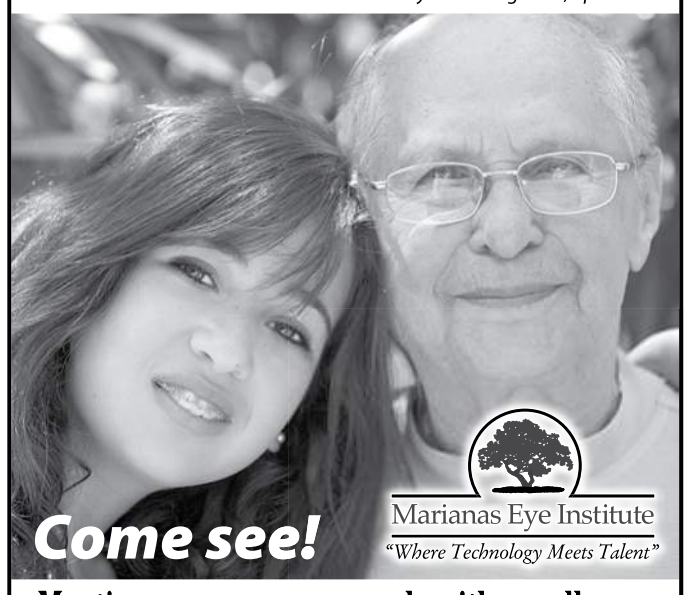

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Address: PMB 1483 Box 10005
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Pro Se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JANET P. CATALAN) FCD-DI
) CIVIL ACTION
Petitioner,) NO. 08-0323
)
vs.)
) **SUMMONS**
DANNY CATALAN)
)
Respondent,)
)

TO: DANNY CATALAN

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Janet P. Catalan whose address is PMB 1483 Box 10005, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filling.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 13th day of June, 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Learn About Zoning on Saipan!

The Zoning Office invites the public to attend training about the Saipan Zoning Law. We extend a special invitation to:

- Builders, Developers, Engineers, Architects
- Government agencies
- People adding or changing business signs
- People opening or moving a business
- Adult business owners
- Title companies, Consultants, Document Handlers
- Anyone with a nonconforming use, structure, or sign

Attendees will get a free color zoning map of Saipan and information handouts. The training will include presentations and discussion.

Location:	Multipurpose Building, Susupe
September 16	
9:00 – 10:00 am	Introduction to Saipan Zoning
10:15 – 11:30 am	Zoning application forms and processes
September 17	
9:00 – 10:00 am	Adult Businesses – required signs, appearance, location
10:15 – 11:30 am	Signs – easy ways to meet zoning requirements

To reserve space, call the Zoning Office at 234-9661 or e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp. Download the Saipan Zoning Law and maps from www.zoning.gov.mp. Visit the Zoning Office at 2nd floor Joeten Bldg., DanDan or call 234-9661 for information.

Former Abramoff associate is arrested

By CARRIE JOHNSON and DEL QUENTIN WILBER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES
Former lobbyist Kevin A. Ring, shown at a Senate panel hearing in 2005, said through his attorney yesterday that the government is trying to pressure him to provide evidence against others involved in a public corruption scheme.

WASHINGTON—Former lobbyist Kevin A. Ring was arrested Monday on conspiracy, fraud and obstruction-of-justice charges in connection with his alleged role in a four-year scheme to lavish tickets and trips on lawmakers and government officials in return for help for his clients.

Ring, 37, had worked hand in hand with disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff on behalf of Indian tribes that sought to operate gambling casinos, describing the efforts in boastful private e-mails later used by prosecutors to build a criminal case against the lobbyists, according to an indictment unsealed Monday.

Ring, a former aide to Rep. John T. Doolittle, R-Calif., made a brief appearance Monday in the federal courthouse in the District of Columbia. Through his attorney, Ring pleaded not guilty and criticized the government, saying it was trying to pressure him provide evidence against others.

"While Mr. Ring had been cooperating with officials for over two years, he simply could not plead guilty to crimes he did not commit," attorney Richard A. Hibey said in a statement. "From that point, he was deemed uncooperative. Based on his decision to proceed to trial rather than plead guilty, Mr. Ring, his family, and his attorneys expected this indictment."

Authorities accused Ring of arranging campaign contributions for Doolittle, who is referred to as "Representative 5" in court papers, and of lying to investigators hired by Ring's former employer about his knowledge of a lucrative consulting job that lobbyists had arranged for the lawmaker's wife, Julie. Ring and Abramoff treated Doolittle's staff members to rock concerts, football games and meals at pricey restaurants, prosecutors say.

The indictment says Doolittle asked another lawmaker to write a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers in support of earmarks for one of Abramoff's clients, threw his weight behind a bill to grant Puerto Rico statehood status that would have benefited another client and opposed an anti-gambling measure that would have hurt one of Ring's clients.

In October 2000, Ring wrote Abramoff an e-mail describing Doolittle as "such a good soldier, doing everything we asked of him. ... I know you are great about making sure he gets his fair share of contributions, but if (client) is feeling generous, this would be a very opportune time to get something" to him, according to the indictment.

Abramoff and Ring hosted fundraisers for Doolittle at the Capital Grille, a D.C. steakhouse, and arranged for Doolittle's wife to be paid $96,000 for fundraising and bookkeeping services, the indictment alleges.

Abramoff was sentenced to four years in prison last week for his role in the alleged conspiracy. Prosecutors have secured 13 guilty pleas in the corruption scandal centered on him.

Neither John Doolittle, who announced that he would not run for re-election after investigators raided his home last year, nor Julie Doolittle has been charged with a crime. Their attorneys issued a statement Monday in which they "steadfastly" maintained their clients' innocence and questioned the strength of the allegations in the indictment.

"It is clear that portions of the Kevin Ring indictment were designed to make gratuitous references to the Congressman and his wife," David G. Barger and Michael R. Sklaire wrote. "This appears to have been done to titillate the public, with the foreseeable and therefore intended consequence of attempting to embarrass and pressure the Congressman."

Ring worked closely with Robert E. Coughlin II, a former legislative affairs official at the Justice Department who pleaded guilty to criminal conflict of interest in April for accepting meals and tickets from the lobbyist in exchange for advancing his clients' causes with other friendly officials at the department. Both men had worked on Capitol Hill for then-Sen. John D. Ashcroft, R-Mo., who went on to serve as attorney general from 2001 to 2005.

At one point, Coughlin had served as deputy chief of staff for the department's criminal division, and several officials there have been recused from the case because they worked alongside him. The matter is being handled by career lawyers in the fraud and public integrity sections, the U.S. attorney's office in Maryland and the acting principal deputy of the criminal division.

Ring met with investigators more than 20 times and talked for more than 100 hours about his work with Abramoff. But the cooperation appears to have ended last year. That is when Justice Department lawyers "insisted that Mr. Ring plead guilty to various fraud and corruption-related offenses and to implicate others as the price of leniency," Hibey wrote.

Hibey said that he and others tried to arrange a way for Ring to turn himself in but that authorities ignored the request. They arrested Ring at his home in Kensington, Md., Monday morning. Hibey said the arrest "is a harbinger of the overreaching that will characterize the government's prosecution of him."

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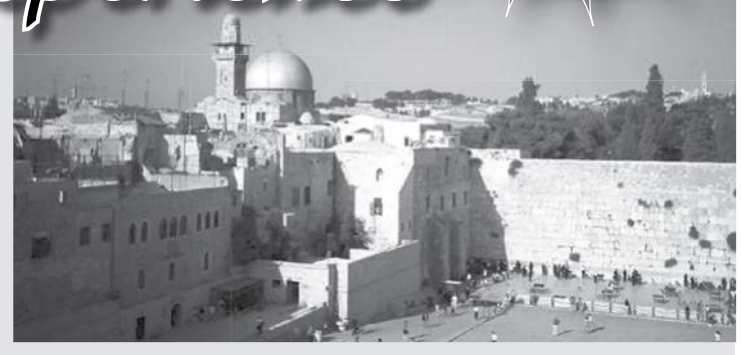

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Doctor: CNMI lacking hospice, palliative care

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Without hospice care, some terminally ill patients in the CNMI are not able to spend their last moments the way they want to, a Commonwealth Health Center doctor said yesterday.

Dr. Divya Sharma, who joined CHC in 2006, spoke to members of the Rotary Club at their weekly meeting about palliative care and hospice care.

Palliative care focuses on providing comfort to a patient. Hospice care is a branch of palliative care that focuses on terminally ill patients.

There are no resources in the CNMI to provide for hospice care, Sharma said.

"That's where we have a huge gap in our ability to provide care in the CNMI," she said.

CNMI Medicaid is severely underfunded compared to other states, she said. In the U.S., hospice and palliative care are covered under Medicaid and Medicare.

Sharma said the Commonwealth also needs a law that allows patients to die at home in peace. Currently, patients that die at home must be taken by ambulance to the hospital in order to be pronounced dead.

"If everything we're working toward is to give the highest quality of care, they need to be able to die in peace and go straight to the funeral home," she added.

Sharma said a bill, based on a similar one passed in Guam, is currently being drafted to allow patients to die at home.

Another deficiency in the CNMI health care system, she told the Rotary members, is cancer detection.

"Unfortunately on Saipan, we detect [cancer] later than you would in the U.S.," she said.

Treatment is slower, she said, and there is not adequate health insurance for most individuals.

"I think there are a lot of barriers to health care that you don't have in the U.S.," she added. "People in the CNMI are disadvantaged."

For example, Sharma said, girls in the U.S. receive pap smears earlier. Pap smears detect cervical cancer, which is treatable if caught early. One in six women with cervical cancer in the CNMI die. The cancer is a Third World illness because it can be prevented, but the resources must be available, she said.

"We call ourselves the United States, but we have one of the highest rates [of cervical cancer]," she added.

Labor urges employers to file JVAs early

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor urged employers yesterday to post their job vacancy announcements early to avoid delays in the processing of work permit applications.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Labor Director Barry Hirshbein said employers should submit the JVA at least 30 days before the expiration of a worker's permit.

"Get your job vacancy online. We don't want to delay applications only because of late job vacancy announcement," Hirshbein said.

Late JVAs, he pointed out, take a lot of time on Labor's part and will also delay the employer's applications. If employers don't post a certified job vacancy online, it may result in the denial of their applications.

"We don't like doing denials for someone not having a job vacancy announcement. We don't like to have to charge people appeal fees to correct the job vacancy announcement," Hirshbein said.

He said they want all applications to be complete when these are filed because this would make Labor's job much easier and make the worker whose application is being renewed more secure.

"Right now, we're dealing with applications that were submitted three weeks ago. We are current in renewing our applications," the director said.

Hirshbein said that, as soon as the Labor and Immigration Identification and Documentation System catches up with the Labor Processing Section, they will be issuing permits within a matter of weeks after the applications are filed—if they are complete.

"We don't like to delay the process," he stressed.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS

CNMI YOUTH CONGRESS

The CNMI Youth Congress is currently open for registration and accepting candidates for the 11th CNMI Youth Congress.

Registration deadline:
September 10, 2008

Candidacy deadline:
September 10, 2008

Election Day:
September 15, 2008

You may register at your respective private or public schools, NMC or with the CNMI Youth Congress Office.

For more information, please contact the CNMI Youth Congress Office at 664-8845

POLLING SITES

Precinct Election at Public Schools

Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria (Precinct 1)
Marianas High School Cafeteria (P1; P2; P3; & P4)
Kagman High School Cafeteria (P1 and P4)
Tinian Jr./Sr. High School (Precinct 5)
Rota High School (Precinct 6)

Northern Marianas College's Student Center (P1; P2; P3; & P4)	**8:00am – 6:00pm**
Multi Purpose Center (P1; P2; P3; & P4)	**8:00am – 6:00pm**

Precinct 1:
Koblerville Youth Learning Center (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
Kagman Community Center (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Precinct 2:
House of Manhoben (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Precinct 3:
Gualo Rai Learning Center (2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

Precinct 4:
Tanapag Youth Center (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
Kagman Community Center (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

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**A personal or business Priority Banking checking account is required. Benefits may be lost if the account is closed or converted to another type of account.

REVISED LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

The previously published load shedding schedule is once again being changed to ensure protection of Power Plant 1. In preparation for the additional power supply to be provided by the Aggreko engines, some necessary modifications were made to the electrical grid to ensure Power Plant 1 will continue to have system protection throughout the load-shedding schedule.

8am - 11am
Feeder-2: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, CPA (Seaport), Beach Road Garapan south to San Jose Intersection
Kiya-2: Entire Grid
As Lito, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas, portions of Fina Sisu

11am - 2pm
Feeder-3: Second partial
Upper Gualo Rai, Taro Sue
Kiya-4: Entire Grid
Susupe, San Jose, Oleai, Mount Carmel south to portions of Chalan Kanoa and Chalan Kiya Village

2pm - 5pm
Feeder-2: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, CPA (Seaport), Beach Road Garapan south to San Jose Intersection
Kiya-2: Entire Grid
As Lito, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas, portions of Fina Sisu

5pm - 8pm
Feeder-1: Second Partial
99 Cents Store, Upper Navy Hill, Upper MIHA
Feeder-4: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, As Teo, Kagman and portions of Papago
Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north of Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

8pm - 11pm
Feeder-3: Second partial
Upper Gualo Rai, Taro Sue
Kiya-4: Entire Grid
Susupe, San Jose, Oleai, Mount Carmel south to portions of Chalan Kanoa and Chalan Kiya Village
Kiya-1: Entire Grid
As Terlaje, NMC, Botanical Garden, Portions of Fina Sisu, Upper and Lower Dandan, Homestead, Isley Field, Kanat Tabla

11pm - 2am
Feeder-1: Second Partial
99 Cents Store, Upper Navy Hill, Upper MIHA
Feeder-4: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, As Teo, Kagman and portions of Papago
Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north of Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

2pm - 5am
Feeder-2: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, CPA (Seaport), Beach Road Garapan south to San Jose Intersection
Kiya-2: Entire Grid
As Lito, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas, portions of Fina Sisu

5pm - 8am
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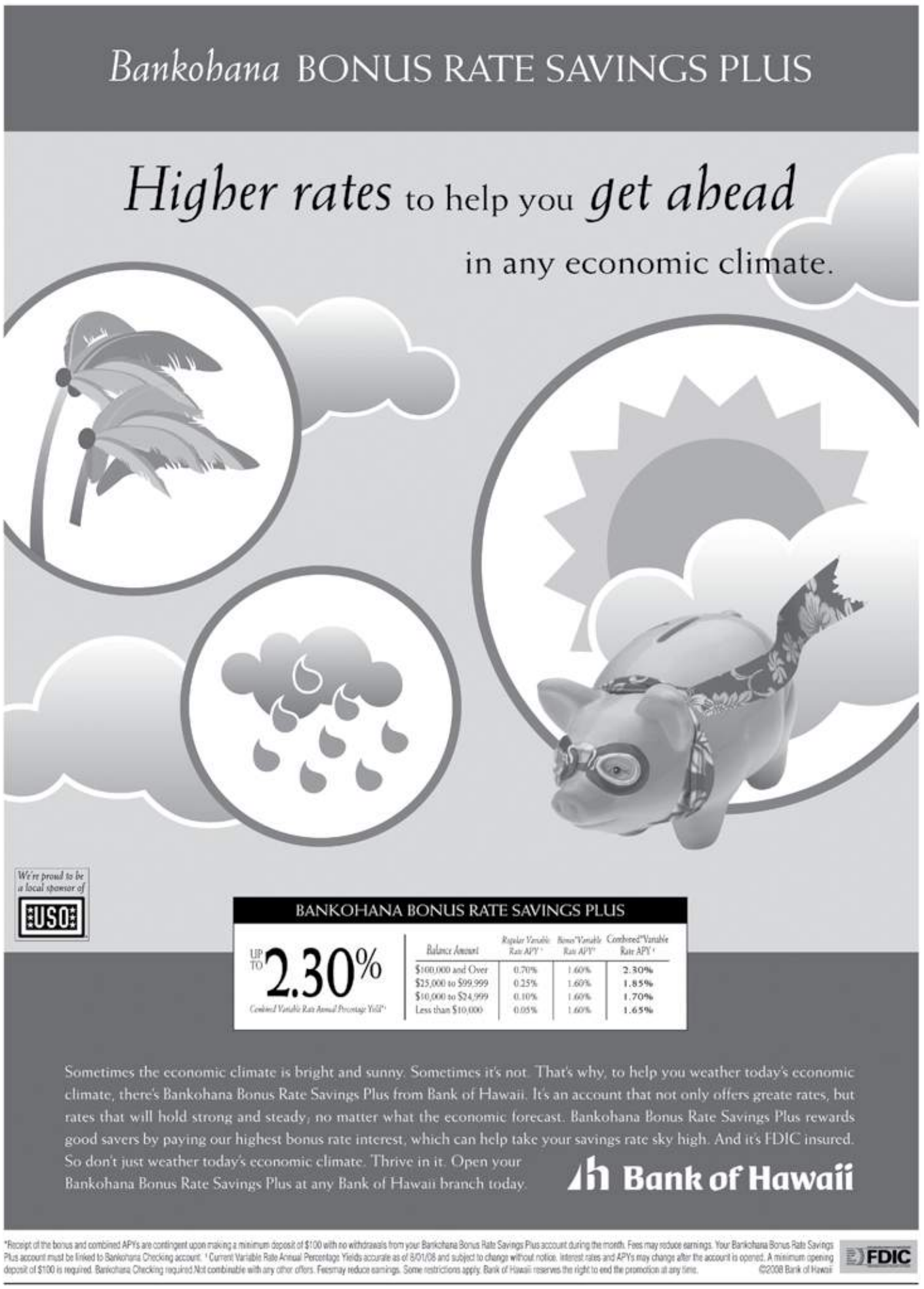
Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north of Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

Source: Commonwealth Utilities Corp.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$25,000 to $99,999 | 0.25% | 1.60% | 1.85%
$10,000 to $24,999 | 0.10% | 1.60% | 1.70%
Less than $10,000 | 0.05% | 1.60% | 1.65%
Sometimes the economic climate is bright and sunny. Sometimes it's not. That's why, to help you weather today's economic climate, there's Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus from Bank of Hawaii. It's an account that not only offers greate rates, but rates that will hold strong and steady, no matter what the economic forecast. Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus rewards good savers by paying our highest bonus rate interest, which can help take your savings rate sky high. And it's FDIC insured. So don't just weather today's economic climate. Thrive in it. Open your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus at any Bank of Hawaii branch today.
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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 10, 1999

On OIA's on-the-job political campaign: Probe residents
He said that if he had the opportunity, he would personally ask Chairman Don Young (R-Alaska) to widen the probe to include locals who may be on the OIA's payroll with the sole function to criticize the Commonwealth. "I would like...to recommend that the investigation be expanded to include...other people who are involved in checking out evidence against the CNMI, maybe some local residents also who are actively engaging in a smear campaign," said Reyes.

Legislature reviews $60M bond for CIP projects
The proposed $60 million bond now moving forward in the Legislature is intended to boost the local economy and lawmakers are hopeful it would be finalized by the end of this year. According to Rep. Karl T. Reyes, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the proposed allocation of the funds should be similar to the spending plan implemented by the Governor's 702 Multi-Agency CIP Task Force.

Arriola opposes sanction move against him
Lawyer Joseph Arriola yesterday opposed the motion filed by Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan and Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch who have asked the court to have him sanctioned for "extremely improper conduct." Manibusan and Lynch have sought sanctions on Arriola in connection with his move to summon them to testify on a case which involved a businessman's bid for return of the properties seized from him by the government.

September 10, 2001

Seven suicide cases in two weeks reported
The Commonwealth Health Center recorded seven suicide incidents in the last two weeks, two of them were reportedly revived by hospital personnel. Sources privy to the cases disclosed that the victims claimed their lives for reasons ranging from severe depression to family-related problems. Reports reaching the *Saipan Tribune* indicated that two of the seven cases of suicide, which transpired in the last 14 days, involved students of a public high school. Five were reportedly attending school at a highly-reputable, private educational institution on Saipan.

House passes 2002 budget
With a scant 12 days before the end of the fiscal year, the House of Representatives finally passed on Friday the $233.84 million Fiscal Year 2002 budget that substantially retained the original proposal of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. Slight variations were noted between the allocations outlined in the Governor's proposed budget and the money measure that passed the House but, as expected, the Public School System got the biggest slice of the pie-19 percent, or $45 million-which is $2 million more than the original proposal for the PSS.

'Lift hiring ban on nonresidents'
In an additional bid to jump-start the CNMI economy, House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial has filed a bill that seeks to lift the moratorium on the hiring of nonresident workers. During Friday's special session, Fitial said his bill, which remains unnumbered at the moment, is very important as it would help local businesses bring in qualified people who can help revitalize the economy. Primarily, Fitial's proposed measure seeks to repeal Public Law 11-6, or the moratorium law, in its entirety.

September 10, 2002

CIP master plan under review
Preparations are now going full steam ahead as the Commonwealth government prepares to sit down in less than a month for the Covenant 702 negotiations with the federal government. Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, who has been appointed by Gov. Juan N. Babauta to head the CNMI panel, said yesterday that he and a team at the Office of the Governor are now putting together a package of information that would be used as a basis for the CNMI's proposal during negotiations in October.

MVA finally gets its $2.6M
Exactly 68 days after House Bill 13-138 became law, the Marianas Visitors Authority finally got the check for the $2.6 million that it would use as supplemental budget for promotions. Marianas Public Lands Authority Board of Directors acting Chair Ana Demapan Castro handed over to MVA Board of Directors Chair Dave Sablan the freshly printed check during turnover ceremonies yesterday afternoon at the conference room of the Governor's Office.

6 water quality labs certified

HONOLULU—The U.S. Freely Associated States Water Quality Laboratory Certification Program recently completed a very successful first year with certification granted to six of its laboratories.

The certification program operates under the auspices of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the American Samoa EPA, CNMI Division of Environmental Quality, and Guam EPA.

Certification was granted to laboratories of the Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board, the Republic of the Marshall Islands EPA, and the Federated States of Micronesia, which includes Yap State EPA, Chuuk State EPA, Pohnpei State EPA and Kosrae Department of Health Services.

All labs were certified to analyze drinking water for bacterial contamination, and the Palau and RMI labs were also certified to analyze bacteria in marine water.

"This successful program is an excellent example of partnership and of leveraging technical expertise to get these critical drinking water labs certified," said John McCarroll, manager of the EPA Pacific Southwest region's Pacific Islands office. "This program is really important for these islands because without a good water quality laboratory you cannot be sure whether water is safe for drinking or nearshore water is safe for swimming or fishing. The amazing thing about this program is that we tapped the expertise not just of U.S. EPA, but also the territorial EPAs."

The certification program is led by ASEPA Water Program manager Lt. Elena Vaouli with the U.S. Public Health Service. One of the key accomplishments this year is the certification for the RMI Lab, enabling it to better analyze drinking water and marine water for bacterial contamination. Also, the Chuuk State Lab with its certification has become the FSM's newest, largest, and best supplied lab, with the highest number of certified staff analysts, enabling it to better analyze drinking water.

Certification audits for analysis of bacteria in marine water for the Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae labs are planned for 2009 to verify their ability to monitor the ocean water quality and ensure the safety of those using the ocean resources.

Certification of laboratory facilities and personnel ensures that a laboratory produces scientifically valid and legally defensible data. To maintain certification, lab facilities must pass an on-site evaluation at least every two years, and must have at least one certified analyst on staff. To receive certification, analysts must successfully pass a written exam as well as a hands-on practical application of methods and procedures. ***(EPA)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: August 27, 2008 Closing Date: September 18, 2008

JVA No. 08-024	Trades Technician (Mechanical and Operator)
Location	Power Generation, Saipan
JVA No. 08-025	Trades Foreperson (Mechanical and/or Electrical)
Location	Power Generation, Saipan

For information on the duties and minimum qualifications, please contact the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

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Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

CPA Regular Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, September 12, 2008, 9:30 a.m.
Port of Saipan's Conference Room, Captain George F. Fleming Building

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (Jan. 11, May 9 and Sept. 5, 2008)

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION
III. CORRESPONDENCES
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
VI. OLD BUSINESS
1. Change & Update of Personnel Rules and Regulations
2. Change & Update of Procurement Rules and Regulations
3. Reorganization of department and divisions
4. Tinian Harbor Emergency Repairs Change Order No. 3 approval
5. Tinian Harbor Emergency Repairs CM Extension Amendment No. 1
6. SIA Baggage Handling System Preventive Maintenance Proposal
7. Cancellation of Airport Emergency Generator

VII. NEW BUSINESS
8. Procurement of K9 Unit Vehicle
9. Governor's Directive # CPA-08-03
10. APEC Contract Renewal re: Incinerator

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
IX. PUBLIC COMMENT
X. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI, Chairman, Board of Directors
September 9, 2008

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-08-2295

To: **Provide Local Public Relations and Media Services**

Closing Date: **September 26, 2008** Time: **3:00 p.m.** (Saipan Time)

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the MVA office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday) except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Thailand's new crisis

The good news about democracy is that as elected government has spread and deepened its roots around the world during the past two decades, poor people and neglected ethnic groups in many countries have gained power. In countries such as Brazil, Indonesia and Mexico, government policies have shifted to accommodate the newly enfranchised, and their lives have improved. The downside is that the expansion of the political system has, in a few countries, touched off cultural or class warfare that has undermined the new freedom. In some cases, such as Venezuela and Bolivia, populists claiming to represent a poor or indigenous majority have won elections, then sought to entrench themselves in power and eliminate competition from the old elite. We've had a lot to say about the harm Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and Bolivia's Evo Morales have done to their countries.

But a parallel danger has come from elites who respond to the surging influence of once-excluded populations by trying to check the democracy that empowered them. That is what has happened in Turkey, where a secular establishment has tried using both the military and the courts to overturn the election victories of the moderately Islamist AK Party. And a broadly similar story has unfolded in Thailand, which has found itself paralyzed by a political crisis for the second time in less than two years.

Thailand's struggle centers on the movement created by former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, a billionaire tycoon-turned-populist who won two landslide elections by promising economic improvement to poor people in the countryside. To a large extent, Thaksin delivered, creating health-care programs and providing credit to farmers. He also abused his power at times, leaning on the media and allowing human rights violations by the police and army. Two years ago, a movement backed by traditional political parties and claiming to defend democracy paralyzed Bangkok with demonstrations and eventually provoked a military coup. Predictably, the generals found themselves unable to govern the country, and last December they allowed new elections. Just as predictably, Thaksin's party, with a new name and a surrogate leader, once again won.

The Bangkok-based elite is once again trying to bring down the government by force. Thousands are occupying the central government offices; violent clashes on Tuesday forced Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej to declare a state of emergency. The insurgents still style themselves as the "People's Alliance for Democracy," but this time some of their leaders are explicit in calling for just the opposite: the restoration of a full monarchy or a military-backed autocracy that would keep Thaksin's movement out of power.

Fortunately, Thai military leaders appear to have learned from their last intervention. The current commander in chief has ruled out a coup—though he also refused to enforce the state of emergency and disperse the demonstrators. Samak has resisted pressure to resign and instead announced a plan for a referendum on his continuance in office. That means the burden for ending the crisis peacefully lies with the opposition. Those among that opposition who genuinely believe in democracy should demonstrate as much by breaking with those who seek to destroy the system.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Why not?

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

A few days ago, someone asked me, "Walt, you've been doing workshops and consulting for some years now. What do you think stops people from starting their own business?"

I didn't even have to think about it. I replied: "It's their belief level."

It's that simple. You might think it's (lack of) intelligence, finances, information or some other reason that prevents people from becoming entrepreneurs. While these may be a person's stated reasons for a their reluctance to start a business, the reality is a bit different.

People don't shy away from business because of their *actual* intelligence level, their *actual* level of finances, or the *actual* level of information and skill they have concerning the business process. No. They fear, and talk themselves out of starting businesses because of what they believe about their intelligence, finances and skill. That's a subtle, but major distinction. The belief about a situation often has no bearing on the reality of a situation. Or, stated another way, the belief about a situation becomes a person's reality of their situation.

The truth, however, is:

If they believe it is possible for people like them, they will do it—regardless of what others think.

If they believe a thing makes sense to do, they will do it—regardless of what others think.

If they believe that something can be done, they will do it—regardless of how smart, how capitalized, or how informed they are.

If you've ever entertained the idea of starting a business but talked yourself out of it, then whatever reason you gave, think about this:

If you believed that a down economy was the best time to start a business, you would act differently. Many fortunes were built during America's Great Depression.

If you believed that money was NOT a pre-requisite to starting a business, you would act differently. According to the press, when Colonel Sanders started his first chicken restaurant, his only income was a $105/month Social Security check.

If you believed that high-school dropouts do better in business, you would act differently. Director Quentin Tarantino, automobile business mogul Henry Ford, McDonald's founder Ray Croc, comedian George Carlin, news reporter Peter Jennings, and serial entrepreneur Richard Branson all dropped out of high school. (Of course, a good education helps in business. If you're in school, I'm not encouraging you to drop out. However, if you're at an age or in a situation where going back to high school might be a little challenging, then know that you can still succeed.)

If you believed—I mean really believed—that "people like you" make the best entrepreneurs, you would act differently. (Insert your identity of choice here, i.e. women, men, island people, old people, etc.) Successful entrepreneurs come in all shapes, sizes and hues.

No, really. Stop and think about that for a minute. How would you behave if all the things you currently think are holding you back were actually the perfect set of circumstances for your success?

WHAT DO THEY KNOW?

Yes, businesses are closing. But there are also businesses opening up. What do these people know that you don't? Perhaps nothing. Maybe they simply believe something different about who they are, and are not bound by self-limiting beliefs about their history, their culture or their abilities.

The only thing that history and culture teaches you is what people have believed to be true, not necessarily everything that was actually true or possible.

Everyone believed that the 100 meter race could not be run in under 9.77 seconds, until Jamaican Usain Bolt proved otherwise at 9.69 seconds (yep, I had to sneak that one in!).

Now, while it is true that a certain level of thinking ability, a certain level of money, and a certain level of correct information is helpful in business, the actual amount required is far less than what you might expect. Not to be mean, mind you, but there are a lot of not-too-smart, under-capitalized and uninformed people who have launched businesses that have become successful.

THE TASK AT HAND

So, that makes my task—and yours if you wish to encourage entrepreneurship—a simple one.

Any training course, coaching, consulting, workshop or advice must take the student/participant through a three-step mental process. If you want to change a person's course of action, or have them follow-through with a new course of action, he/she must in their mind say, and believe, the following three concepts:

1. "Me too."
2. "This makes sense."
3. "I can do this."

ME TOO

"Me too" is a person's way of saying, "I'm just like him/her," or "I am in the same situation," or more generally, "I can relate." In other words, if say, your goal is to influence an Eskimo to start a business, then typically (not always, but generally), the best person for the job is another Eskimo. If your audience is women, then get a woman to present the information or to give a testimonial. The more aspects of a person's identity that you can relate to, the better will be your success at moving them to action.

Quick story: When I was getting into network marketing, I was at

See WHY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Governor Tina Sablan?

I note with interest a writer's heart-strung plea for newly elected Rep. Christina Sablan to seriously consider running for the CNMI governorship in the upcoming election. I have read, seen, heard and finally spoke to Tina. And, like many others, she has impressed me as a polarizing figure sincerely bent on reforming the corruption that's entrenched in our government, specifically the graybeards and deadwoods on the hill who primp for newspaper headlines and strut for any voter. Could she be the phenom who shakes up that legislative rot and then bring hope to our community?

Let's take a closer look.

Rep. Sablan sort of reminds me of the U.S. vice presidential pick for the national Republican Party, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who campaigned, like Tina, as a reformer. In last week's GOP convention, Palin struck back at the liberal media and a "Washington elite" that have raised questions about her qualifications to be vice president of our nation. Her speech connected strongly with delegates who interrupted her numerous times with standing ovations, she dismissed critics of her background as "snobs" who look down on ordinary Americans and their concerns to do the right thing.

Palin is quoted as saying: *"I'm not a member of the permanent political establishment. And I've learned quickly these past few days that if you're not a member in good standing of the Washington elite, then some in the media consider a candidate unqualified for that reason alone. But here's a little news flash for all those reporters and commentators: I'm not going to Washington to seek their good opinion. I'm going to Washington to serve the people of this country."*

Call "Washington" the CNMI legislative halls; the "snobs" the graybeards and deadwoods; the "elite" as GOP politicos that seek to always undermine Tina and keep their boys in office; and replace VP pick "Palin" with, and you'll come to: Rep. Sablan. The difference here is Palin has already done battle with those politicos by first being a city council member in the small town of Wesilla then managing it as mayor. Tina has no such inclusive experience. Then Palin usurped a powerful sitting GOP governor two years ago to become Alaska's governor on a ticket of reform. Tina got elected on her first try as an independent candidate. Unlike Palin, who is known as the soccer mom nurturing a family of five children and one husband, Rep. Sablan, even without this background, is learning very fast.

The notion of Tina being the CNMI governor is idealistic at best. Why? Newcomer Palin is riding under the protective cover and reputation of a Vietnam war prisoner and hero by the name of John McCain, the GOP presidential nominee who has been in the U.S. Senate for two decades. Tina has no such advantage. The other question posed against Tina is realistic: Can an articulate and intelligent and persistent candidate win?

For the romanticists out there yes, she is, but uh-uh. It's too soon. Being unprepared with no political engine or picnic table support—mandatory in smash-mouth politics—is a losing ticket. The other impediment Tina already knows: she's been head-butted so often it must be frustrating. Those guys on the hill definitely don't want or need any upstart—a young lady, at that, who doesn't know "her place" up there—telling them what to do. It's an all-male gang-job and no place for Tina. Local politics—for an "outsider" like her—is a feeding frenzy where losing an eye or going hungry is not uncommon.

Then, what exactly is the problem? Never bring a knife to a gun fight.

So let's imagine Tina being elected as the first female governor. Now what? If she's done her due diligence as a "politician," she must've already setup her Cabinet and those appointed to key departments and agencies. But who will they be: Cast-offs? Shysters? Ghouls? Graybeards or deadwoods? What are her choices out there? In short, ugh. Sweet-talking party jumpers will gleefully get on her bandwagon not because of belief in reforming governmental bloat, but to hustle a free ride and job at her expense. In the new establishment of Tina's, that is not what she requires.

Let's face it: Rep. Sablan is not a major league hitter in local politics. To rise above the mess, Tina must surround herself with like-minded individuals or run into the same problems she's currently encountering now from the graybeards and deadwoods. And that applies to those she appoints to departmental and agency positions. It's a fantasy to believe that the male of the species in the Legislature and the departments, who curry to the "no-women-allowed" mantra, would gladly surrender their all-male sanctuary just for her.

Clearly, the growing federal presence in the islands shall alter the face of government by unearthing more scandals. That problem, which now besets Governor Fitial, will be the same for any new governor: betrayal by incompetent legislators and untrustworthy departmental heads who were chosen in good faith to lead—and failed. Immediately to mind are the federal indictments for Governor Fitial's lieutenant governor, Timothy Villagomez, and crony James Santos of the Commerce Department; and the slew of "early retirements" or outright firings of undesirables in key positions because of gross negligence or fear of exposure to incompetence.

So, who should Tina select? Choosing from a questionable list using time-on- the-job as criteria makes it a major vexation. It's euphemistically called "experience" (throw in "incumbent," too), a description that seems to influence those choosing but does not guarantee performance or competency by those chosen, witnessed by the current dilemma of a dysfunctional government, from top to bottom, over the last 30 years.

What to do? First, we as voters should get rid of the graybeards and the deadwoods in the Legislature. Next, don't recycle the same

See GOVERNOR on Page 13

John Davis' priorities

I have no idea why Ambrose Bennett considers it "ridiculous" to seek to be the Delegate to the United States Congress. It is a citizen's civic duty not only to vote but also to run for office. The more candidates under our democratic system, the better.

As the Election Commission has pointed out, "the willingness to serve in a position of public trust strengthens the foundations of our democratic system and provides voters with more choices at the polls. By demonstrating [their] desire for public service, [candidates] are helping to build a stronger Northern Mariana Islands."

I also do not know to which "two candidates" Mr. Bennett refers in his letter to the editor on Sept. 8. Public comments regarding public officials and candidates should not be so ambiguous and should clearly identify the person about whom the comments are made.

It is also not clear from Mr. Bennett's letter if he is speaking on behalf of the newspapers.

I do know that John H. Davis Jr., candidate for the position of Delegate, has stated in community meetings, in meetings with individuals, and in writing what he is going to do and how he is going to get it done if elected.

John Davis has stated unequivocally that his priority will be to support a self-sufficient, self-reliant CNMI. He has stated that, as a first step toward self-sufficiency and self-reliance, he will introduce legislation to transfer our Exclusive Economic Zone and our surrounding waters to the control of the CNMI. He will also introduce legislation to establish a veterans' medical facility here in the CNMI. And he has stated that he will push for the Small Business Administration and other federal economic agencies to set up offices here in the CNMI.

Well-informed and public-spirited citizens are important—no, more than important—they are essential to our democratic form of government and our well-being.

A public forum to meet John Davis, to listen to his views on what he can offer as the Delegate to the U.S. Congress, and to join in the discussion with any questions or concerns people may have, has been scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008, at 4:30-6:30pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan.

I urge all citizens to be informed voters and attend this public forum. And for more information about John Davis, check out davisforcongress.blogspot.

Jeanne Rayphand
San Vicente, Saipan

'Please return stolen items'

I would just like to make a plea to the community regarding my stolen guitar. It was stolen from my home on Capital Hill in late August. It was not reported in the media coverage of the 13 robberies that took place but it was stolen. It is a Yamaha, and the body is very large on the bottom. It was in a black case and had a few scratches near where you would strum. This guitar was a gift to me from my father when I was just a kid and has a lot of sentimental value for me. I would appreciate it so much if it were returned to me. It is possible whoever has it does not realize it was stolen and I understand, I just would like to have it back please. Also stolen was a diamond pendant, which was from my mother's engagement ring. It was on a gold chain with a little gold whale's tail. It would mean so much to me if these items were turned in to the police as they were given to me by my parents who have both passed away and cannot be replaced. Thank you for your help.

Susan Marchitti
PMB 361 Box 10003
Saipan, MP 96950

Editor's Note: If you need to call this letter writer, call the Saipan Tribune *editor at 235-6397 or 235-2440 to get her number.*

WHY

From Page 10

a convention attended by hundreds of people. Many young men spoke of their success in the business, and my interest was piqued. An electrical engineer spoke of how he was able to walk away from his job, and I felt a bit of a kinship, since at the time I was a frustrated civil engineer. But it wasn't until Kempton Griffith, a Jamaican, spoke, that things changed instantly. Upon hearing that familiar accent, I was able to relate in a way that the other speakers could not evoke. Kempton was older than I was, on a different career track, had a wife and kids—all things to which I couldn't relate. However, being a fellow Jamaican was my required selling point. I signed up that very moment, dove headfirst into the business, and two years later walked away from my civil engineering job, and well, the rest is....

One Chamorro, Carolinian, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Russian, Filipino or Korean business success story influences others. People relate to another person's language, culture, appearance, gender, age family ties and life experience. Getting them to see themselves in you (or in the desired image of success) is step number one.

THIS MAKES SENSE

Once you get a person to say "me too," then your next step is to present the desired course of action in a way that makes sense. People will not embark on a course of action that doesn't make sense. Conversely, they are more likely to embark on a course of action that *does* make sense.

It may seem obvious, but many consultants and workshop presenters assume that their clients or participants share their own or very limited reasons for why starting a business makes sense.

People want to know does this make sense in a global context? Is this the right time, and set of conditions?

They also want to know if it make sense in a personal context? The personal reasons it makes sense will differ from person to person. For some it may be for patriotic or cultural reasons. For others it may be financial freedom. For still others it may be for their children. Others want to see the financial projections before they say it makes sense.

So, does it make sense to start a business now while real estate prices are lower? Does it make sense to position yourself early for an eventual economic turnaround? Does it make sense to establish a legacy for your children? Does it make sense in order to maintain control of the economy of these islands? You tell me.

The more it makes sense, the more likely it will be to get done. Does this make sense?

I CAN DO THIS

Finally, once a person can relate, and once it makes sense, the next step is for her to see herself performing in the new role. A person learns to drive by getting in the driver's seat and driving.

Breaking down the required tasks into a demonstrable series of actions is how I elicit the "I can do this" response. That's why apprenticeships, hands-on workshops or simply "trial by fire" are so vitally important for an entrepreneur's success.

I teach people to start their own Internet businesses by having them sit at a computer and taking them through each and every step required to reserve a domain name, sign up for a hosting account, create a website, upload it, modify it, etc. At the end of the three-hour workshop, they can say without a doubt, "I can do this!"

Brainstorming for ideas, doing research, completing forms and paperwork, registering the business, making sales calls, purchasing inventory, filling orders, greeting customers—these are all elements of launching and running a business that can and should be demonstrated, and acted out by the participants if they are to be successful at it.

Once a person really believes they can do a thing, it's more likely to get done.

These are the little tricks of the trade that any teacher, trainer, preacher or politician can use to move the masses to action. And it works because, regardless of the historical or cultural context within which you operate, all you're really ever doing is raising another person's belief level about who they are ("me too"), what is doable ("this makes sense"), and their ability to do it ("I can do this").

***Note**: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

***Note**: There's a new blog in town! Check out www.blacksonsaipan.com*

■■■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲82	▼74
Palau	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Thundershowers	▲88	▼74
Chuuk	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Thundershowers	▲88	▼72
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼74

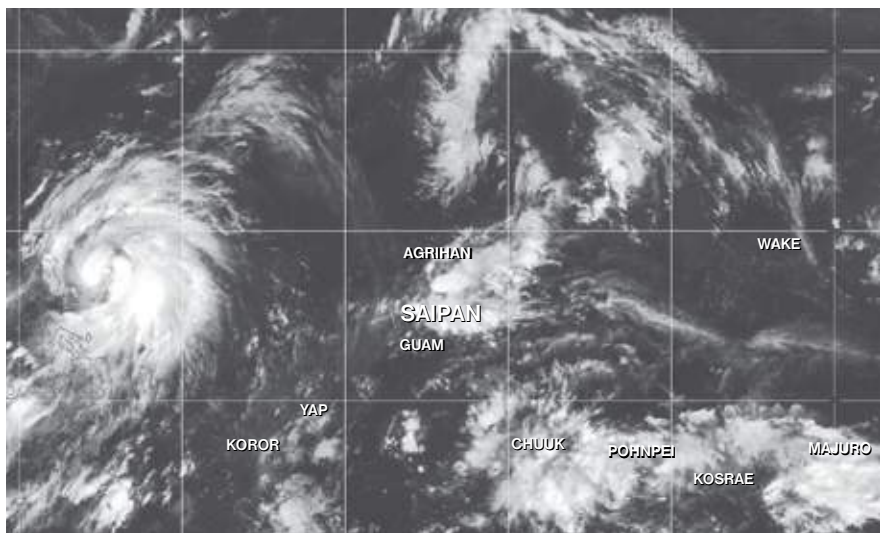
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼46
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼61
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼75
London	Partly Sunny	▲71	▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲76	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼75
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲63	▼52
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼80
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼57
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼68
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼54
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼68
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼68
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼46
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲71	▼56
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼63
Tokyo	Sunny	▲82	▼66
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼57

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:55AM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:00AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
5:42PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:46PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Sinlaku is centered outside of the discussion area at 17N 125E. A monsoon trough extends eastward from Tropical Storm Sinlaku to 16N130E to the north of Koror at 14N135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 13N and 20N west of 132E. An upper-level low is centered northeast of Guam at 22N148E. Divergent winds aloft are triggering scattered showers and thunderstorms north of Guam between 14N and 20N from 144E to 151E. This area covers Saipan and the Northern Mariana Islands. Also, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of 23N from 145E to 148E and north of 22N from 155E to 159E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 3N and 8N from 148E to 160E. Also between 5N and 9N from 160E to 167E and between 2N and 8N from 166E to 178E. This area includes Chuuk, Pohnpei and Majuro. Scattered showers are occurring southeast of Koror between 1N and 5N from 136E to 139E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:05AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:05AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:05AM	6:20 PM
Sunday	6:05AM	6:19 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:41PM	1:13AM
Thursday	3:27PM	2:06AM
Friday	4:09PM	3:00AM
Saturday	4:49PM	3:53AM
Sunday	5:28PM	4:45AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Letters to the Editor

Celebrate Citizenship Day with a rally!

Dear brothers and sisters of the CNMI,

We have reached a pivotal point in our lives where we can no longer sit in our dark homes and hope that our leaders solve our problems. They have failed us, and to this day, our leaders offer us no immediate relief or solutions to our problems. If you have been following the news, you know that Aggreko is nothing more than another temporary band-aid solution to our power problems. Aggreko's 15 or 18 megawatts of power comes with a hefty price tag that we all will have to pay for—$500,000 a month, excluding fuel and other associated costs. CUC will have no choice but to raise our utility rates once again. My question to you is, can you afford another CUC increase? If you found your last power bill to be astronomically high, I want you to close your eyes and imagine what it will be like when you are actually paying for 24-hour power.

While this administration insisted on spending millions of dollars on renting high-speed engines from Aggreko, it ignored offers from Tinian's Telesource to deliver 10 megawatts of power to Saipan. These two 5 megawatt, medium-speed engines are sitting idle on Tinian as we speak. My question is, why? I am sure Governor Fitial's spinmeisters will come up with some excuse as to why Telesource's 10 megawatts of additional, unused power continues to be ignored.

Certainly you must know by now that historically speaking, CUC's problem has not been a lack of funding, but a lack of sound decision-making. While this administration inherited its share of problems with CUC, it did nothing to make things better. If anything, things are far worse today than ever in the history of CUC and our commonwealth. At a time when we needed the best and brightest to repair and rehabilitate our broken CUC engines, this administration sole-sourced "emergency" contracts to DCM and CISCO, resulting in none of the engines being repaired and rehabilitated. The nightmare we are living in today is a direct result of this administration's complete failure and incompetence in providing affordable, reliable power to us all.

Take a look at all of CUC's sole source contracts and the tens of millions of dollars that have been pumped into CUC during this administration. What is the end result? Multiple daily power outages and exorbitant power rates that have forced businesses to close, families to move, electronic equipment and appliances to break, and for many of our families to be cut off the grid because they can no longer afford to pay their utility bill. To add insult to injury, while we continue to cut back our power consumption in an effort to bring our utility bill down, our governor and lieutenant governor consume more power than ever, all because we, the CNMI taxpayers, pay for their CUC bill. Apparently, in the eyes of this administration, suffering and hardship is acceptable, as long as it does not affect them.

With our collapsed economy and our broken CUC, Governor Fitial still claims that he has a "plan." In his "Road Map for Better Times" campaign in 2005, Governor Fitial laid out the 5 *E*'s for a better Commonwealth—Economy, Education, Environment, Essentials, and Ethics. I will not go into fine details, but I will briefly discuss each of Governor Fitial's *E*'s.

EDUCATION

How can we strengthen education when our children cannot even go to school consistently, or how can our children study at home when there is no power and no lights? How can we strengthen education when Governor Fitial is demanding that our schools start two weeks later, after PSS has already delayed its opening by almost a month? The same federal government that Governor Fitial wants to sue is the same federal government that continues to increase federal funding to PSS while local funding continues to decrease. One federal official warned that federal funding for PSS should not take the place of local funding, but it has! Governor Fitial has failed to address the needs of our students at PSS and NMC! How many classrooms are falling apart, and how many students are sitting on the floor because of overcrowded classrooms? Thank God for our hard-working PSS administrators, principals, support staff, and of course, our dear teachers! They are miracle workers who deserve accolades and praise from every one of our leaders! Thank you!

ESSENTIALS

With regard to public safety, our police officers are often overworked and underpaid. Like all other agencies, they are underfunded, and it is fortunate that DPS receives federal funding. How can our police officers patrol neighborhoods and our streets when they are busy directing traffic? Burglars prey off of power outages, and the scheduled outages give them an advantage as they look for dark, empty homes to ransack. Thank you to every officer of the peace for your commitment to our community and in doing your best to keep us safe, but without proper funding and more officers patrolling our neighborhoods, we have come to a point where we must look at protecting ourselves from intruders. We must be vigilant and we must protect each other from the criminals who aim to take what little we have left. You know times have hit rock bottom when one of the things being stolen from homes and stores is baby formula.

ETHICS

One of Governor Fitial's campaign promises was to "ensure that government laws and politics governing contracting, procurement, and administration of grants and licenses, are followed." Is issuing out dozens of sole-source contracts Governor Fitial's way of following strict procurement regulations? Why was DCM given a sole-source contract, out of all potential companies that could have honestly and effectively repaired and rehabilitated CUC's engines? How long has DCM been in business? Is there any conflict of interest in hiring DCM? Who is DCM? How many power plants have they repaired and rehabilitated? Why is AG Matt Gregory not suing DCM over a breach in contract, and at the least, why isn't he pursuing DCM's penalty clauses? All of these questions continue to go ignored by Governor Fitial. What are you trying to hide? Our community has a right to know!

ENVIRONMENT

Governor Fitial promised to encourage energy conservation. When was the last time you heard Governor Fitial speak about energy conservation? The fact is, there have been numerous suggestions in forums and articles and letters on how we as a community can conserve considerable amounts of power, but it has always fallen on deaf ears. It is evident that Governor Fitial would rather have the public consume more power so that CUC could generate more revenue. As for our water supply? How many villages go days without water? And how many times have we read that our water supply is contaminated with bacteria such as E. coli? How many times do we unknowingly shower and bathe our children and have them brush their teeth with toilet water? E. coli is not the only thing we must worry about. How many companies continue to dump used oil and chemicals into our grounds, resulting in carcinogenic contaminants affecting our water supply? In a bad economy, the environment is often the least of anyone's concerns, most notably companies struggling to survive. Sadly, some companies will cut costs by dumping used oil instead of having it properly treated, all in an effort to stay afloat. What exactly has Governor Fitial done thus far to address these and scores of other environmental concerns?

ECONOMY

The constant blackouts and exorbitant utility rates have been the biggest factor in shutting down businesses. In the last two years, we have seen the closing of many businesses who have been operating in the CNMI for decades. How many other businesses are on the verge of closing their doors? I spoke with a bakery owner last week who told me that her monthly utility bill went from $700 to $2,300 in the course of a year. She is seriously considering closing. So what happens when all of these businesses close? It is simple. Less BGRT's mean less revenue for the CNMI, which means more bitter times for all of us. Governor Fitial has done absolutely nothing to help small businesses stay afloat, and he has done absolutely nothing to fix our problems with CUC.

My dear brothers and sisters, we have no choice at this point but to demand that President Bush and the United States federal government declare the CNMI a disaster area. We need more than just additional federal *aid*—we need federal *intervention*. it is a proven fact that this administration is not capable of fixing CUC. What we need is for CUC to be taken out of local hands and put into federal receivership. Can you trust this administration to fix CUC? Can you trust this administration to find the best contractor to fix our engines, after its failures with DCM and CISCO? After more than doubling our utility rates while we still face constant power outages? This administration has lost the public's support and its sentiments, but most importantly, it has lost the public's trust. Whenever this happens, it is time that we, the good people of the CNMI, take matters into our own hands.

I am pleading with you to take a stand for a better CNMI and for a better future for each and every one of us. *Please join us at the Garapan Fishing Base on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 5:30pm, at the Garapan Fishing Base.* What is so significant about Sept. 17 is that it is "Citizenship Day" in the United States, formerly known as "I am an American" day. It is high time that we call the attention of President Bush and our leaders in the U.S. Congress and that we demand an end to our deplorable living conditions! Will you join us?

If you are willing to join us on this historic date, we humbly ask if you can bring the following:

- a written or typed testimonial of the hardship you have had to endure at the hands of CUC.
- umbrellas and raincoats in case it rains.
- flashlights and candles for our candlelight vigil.
- black shirts to signify all the dark nights we had to endure without power.
- a sign that demands federal intervention for CUC. No hate-filled signs please, as this is a peaceful protest that signifies our suffering and our call for immediate relief through federal intervention.

I ask that you respond to me by e-mail at edpropst@gmail.com or call me at 483-7361 and give me your commitment that you will stand with us. United we stand!

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

P.S. Please remember that no one can be fired from their jobs for attending our peaceful protest and call for help. We need you to join us to send a strong, unified message that the people of the CNMI will no longer tolerate the status quo. Change begins Wednesday, Sept. 17, 5:30pm, at the Garapan Fishing Base. Please join us.

Kudos to ban on smoking, chewing in govt offices

I would like to comment on the article "Enforce ban on betel nut, smoking in govt offices," because I completely agree with that. There were numerous times I would go to an office and no one was there. Then I saw that many of them were outside, taking a "smoke break." I know many of us smoke and chew. But do all of them have to go at once? We all get frustrated and stressed out sometimes, but can they at least leave one person so that they can attend to the people? And if there is only one person for that department, can't they wait until their lunch break? The reason why we go to the government offices is to take care of things, not to wait for them to finish their cigarette. So I just wanted to say that I completely agree with this article and the employer should be stricter on their staff even though they smoke and chew themselves.

Mary Grace Santos
via e-mail

A response to Perry Conner's queries

Retaining current immigration/labor status: No disputing the issue on immigration, but taking a proactive approach to halting an annihilative law would grant any administration the opportunity to maintain current and future investments for these isles. Furthermore, the insular areas are given $4 million annually to split among themselves based on needs. Can we really secure much from this meager amount when it must be shared among five entities?

The lawsuit, if perchance we retain some appreciable success, would force the federal government to keep its commitment under the Covenant Agreement to provide for a *"progressively higher standard of living"*. The impending federal labor law would do the exact opposite—total economic paralysis—following a 40-60 percent contraction. I see that you failed to research the history of this fundamental provision of the Agreement. Therefore, you so perfectly fit your own assertion of "braggadocio."

The CNMI is a territory: Again, you fail to thoroughly research the history and case laws behind the Agreement and what makes it unique. The CNMI is the only sovereign entity that negotiated its political relationship with the federal government. No other state or territory was ever given this opportunity. Therefore, your conventional definition and categorization of the NMI as a territory is without foundation. It makes reviewing the history of each provision of the Agreement mandatory!

Yours is a shortsighted, if not shallow, view, but I still welcome healthy discussion including misperceptions and misconceptions on matters pertaining to the rights of the indigenous people here for greater degree of self-government. Regrettably, though, I could also sense a strange energy of the usual white male superiority in the views of you have conveyed. But I have also grown some very thick skin for those who have been infected by the Micronesian Bug.

Finally, the law (any law) is a set of tools for bringing about progress and change for the better. It is not a sacrosanct set of principles, but is one of the means by which society transforms itself, defines itself and evolves. The impending tsunami-like economic contraction emanating from the new federal labor law is but *regressive!* And all we have seen over the last two years are the veiled intent of evil geniuses to compromise the right of the indigenous people to greater degree of self-government. This is followed by subsequent rhetoric to defend, i.e., U.S. GAO's inadequacies, though it's obvious that it was scurrying to provide for what I call varnished legitimacy in its own sea of inadequacies!

John S. DelRosario Jr.
Koblerville, Saipan

GOVERNOR

From Page 11

old faces with the same old blather shuffled from one department or committee or board of directors, to another ad infinitum. Instead, bring in younger, better educated, equally adept and of same-mind personnel to prevent further disintegration of our government. They're out there, find them.

Is Rep. Tina Sablan a shining star in local politics? In my 30 years plus in the region, I haven't seen anything like it. But to paraphrase a poem: The star that shines the brightest dies the soonest.

And welcome to the jungle, Tina.

Lee Andersen
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Island Snapshots

BACK TO SCHOOL

A student in Mrs. Thorpe's class at the Garapan Elementary School run as part of an activity called "All Run Kick Ball" on the school grounds during the first day of classes Monday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Third grade students in Mrs. Thorpe's class at the Garapan Elementary School pass the ball in an exercise activity called "All Run Kick Ball" on the school grounds during their first day of classes Monday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PIC DONATES TO KARIDAT

Pacific Islands Club general manager Kieran Daly, right, presents a check for $3,500 to Karidat executive director Angie V. Deleon Guerrero, center. At left is Karidat administrative officer Judy Pangelinan. The funds were raised at the recent "PIC Palooza," a '70s-themed party held at the Charley's Cabaret on Aug. 30.

TEMPORARY PLANT

Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s crew work on installing pipes above the new Aggreko generators inside the CUC container yard in Lower Base.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

WAITING TO FLY

Passengers look at several Northwest Airlines aircraft while waiting at the Tokyo's Narita Airport departure waiting lounge.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

'SADO URASENKE TANKO-KAI'

Members of the Tanko-kai, the youth division of Japanese traditional tea ceremony association, offer their prayers for the souls of all World War II victims during a tea ceremony or Sado Urasenke Tanko-kai Memorial Ceremony at the Last Command Post in Marpi Saturday morning. The 32-member group from Kyoto arrived on Saipan Friday and left yesterday, Sept 9.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A Northwest Airlines aircraft is seen as passengers wait for their boarding time inside Japan's Nagoya Airport.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

MAFEA MEETING

Members of the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects, MAFEA, have their group picture taken during an officers' meeting held Sept. 6, 2008, at Rommel Crisostomo's residence in Gualo Rai, Saipan. From left, Lito Marquez, Jun Liberato, Andrew Mesina, Domie Aquino, Bong de Guzman, Daniel Nicomedez, Randy Fontanilla, Reymund Casuncao, Ping Casipit, Roger Talapian, Ruel Villacrusis and Eddie Caranzo. Photographer: Rommel Crisostomo and Hector Sevilla.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

STOCK Portfolio

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	11,510.74 +290.43
NASDAQ	2,269.76 +13.88
S&P	1,267.79 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2346
British Pound	0.5689
Canadian Dollar	1.0644
Chinese Renmbi	6.8391
Euro	0.7081
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7977
Indian Rupee	44.889
Indonesian Rupiah	9357
Japanese Yen	107.505
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4495
New Zealand Dollar	1.4943
Philippine Peso	46.784
Singapore Dollar	1.4333
South Korean Won	1101.25
Swiss Franc	1.1301
Taiwan Dollar	31.858
Thailand Baht	34.595

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Hurricanes add to Gulf seafood industry woes

BAYOU LA BATRE, Ala. (AP)—Hurricane Gustav left shrimp rotting on vessels across southeastern Louisiana, where fishing communities without power also lack ice.

It knocked some oyster boats from the harbor to the highway on the Mississippi coast.

And oyster reefs in the region remain closed until officials determine they're safe from storm debris.

Yet despite these effects, much of the commercial seafood industry in the Gulf of Mexico was spared major losses by Gustav, and any potential rise in seafood prices was blunted by an abundance of imports.

The threat from Hurricane Ike is substantial, however—particularly for shrimpers, oystermen and fish processors in coastal Louisiana and the rest of the northern Gulf still recovering from Gustav. They were already seeing profit margins squeezed by the healthy imports.

Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center warn that, after passing into the Gulf of Mexico sometime Tuesday night, Ike could make landfall in the U.S. over the weekend in Louisiana or Texas. It was a Category 1 storm late Monday, but forecasters expect it to strengthen.

Along the Mississippi and Louisiana coasts, some boats and harbors were wrecked by Gustav on Sept. 1, while other vessels survived but had their catches rot due to the lack of ice.

AP

In this Sept. 2, 2008 file photo, fishermen Michael Murphy, left, and Le Hieu load a shrimp boat with supplies following Hurricane Gustav in Bayou La Batre, Ala.

Oil falls below $106 in Asia on stronger dollar

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell below $106 a barrel Tuesday in Asia on a strengthening dollar and expectations a weakening Hurricane Ike may not disrupt Gulf of Mexico drilling and refining operations.

Light, sweet crude for October delivery fell $1.15 to $105.19 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange midday in Singapore. The contract inched up 11 cents overnight to settle at $106.34.

The dollar got a boost—especially against the euro and British pound—from the U.S. Treasury's decision Sunday to take control of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which own or guarantee about half of U.S. mortgage debt, removing uncertainty over their future that had been weighing on global markets.

"It's going to help improve the U.S. credit markets and help the dollar continue to strengthen, at least in the short term," said Jonathan Kornafel, Asia director for brokerage Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore.

A rising greenback spurs investors to sell commodities like oil and precious metals, which are traditionally seen as hedges against inflation.

Mortgage rates drop after Fannie, Freddie takeover

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mortgage rates fell sharply Monday, as investors reacted to the government's takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. And that's exactly what homeowners like Jim Chereskin had been waiting for.

Chereskin, who lives in Naperville, Ill., took out an adjustable-rate loan in 2003 and has been worrying about how much his mortgage payments will rise once the loan resets to market rates in about 18 months.

"I don't want to have to worry about it anymore," said Chereskin, who expects to switch to a fixed-rate loan as soon as this week. That way, he said, "I can sleep at night and I'm good."

The government's takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—mortgage titans that own or guarantee about half of all U.S. mortgages - will help borrowers who had been nervously waiting for the best time to get out of the adjustable-rate mortgages they took out during the housing boom.

Consumer borrowing slows to weakest in 7 months

WASHINGTON (AP)—Borrowing by consumers slipped in July to the weakest pace in seven months, reflecting a big slowdown in demand for car loans.

The Federal Reserve reported Monday that consumer borrowing grew at an annual rate of just 2.1 percent in July, the slowest pace since a 1.9 percent rise last December.

The slowdown reflects a tiny 0.5 percent rate of growth in the category that includes auto loans, down from a 6.1 percent surge in this category in June. Automakers reported that demand for cars fell in July to the lowest level in 16 years.

The category that includes credit cards grew at an annual rate of 4.8 percent in July, up from a growth rate of 3.5 percent in June.

The 2.1 percent growth rate for total credit represented an increase of $4.5 billion, far smaller than the $8.8 billion increase that economists had been expecting and down from a gain of $10.96 billion in June.

Consumers this year have been forced to charge more of their purchases to credit cards as banks have tightened lending standards.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SINGAPORE	014E	8/30 Sat	8/28 Thu	8/28 Thu	8/19 Tue	8/23 Sat	9/5 Fri	9/1 Mon	8/31 Sun	8/26 Tue	8/17 Sun	9/1 Mon	9/5 Fri	9/6 Sat	9/9 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	022E	9/6 Sat	9/4 Thu	9/4 Thu	8/26 Tue	8/30 Sat	9/12 Fri	9/8 Mon	9/7 Sun	9/2 Tue	8/24 Sun	9/8 Mon	9/12 Fri	9/13 Sat	9/16 Tue
MELL SENOKO	010E	9/13 Sat	9/11 Thu	9/11 Thu	9/9 Tue	9/6 Sat	9/19 Fri	9/15 Mon	9/14 Sun	9/9 Tue	9/7 Sun	9/15 Mon	9/19 Fri	9/20 Sat	9/23 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	015E	9/20 Sat	9/18 Thu	9/18 Thu	9/16 Tue	9/13 Sat	9/26 Fri	9/22 Mon	9/21 Sun	9/14 Sun	9/14 Sun	9/22 Mon	9/26 Fri	9/27 Sat	9/30 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	023E	9/27 Sat	9/25 Thu	9/25 Thu	9/23 Tue	9/20 Sat	10/3 Fri	9/29 Mon	9/28 Sun	9/21 Sun	9/21 Sun	9/29 Mon	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/7 Tue
MELL SENOKO	011E	10/4 Sat	10/2 Thu	10/2 Thu	9/30 Tue	9/27 Sat	10/10 Fri	10/6 Mon	10/5 Sun	9/28 Sun	9/28 Sun	10/6 Mon	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/14 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SINGAPORE	014E	9/13 Sat	9/14 Sun	9/14 Sun	9/16 Tue	9/18 Thu	9/19 Fri	9/20 Sat	9/23 Tue	9/26 Fri	9/27 Sat	10/2 Thu	9/30 Tue	9/28 Sun	10/1 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	022E	9/20 Sat	9/21 Sun	9/21 Sun	SKIP	9/25 Thu	9/26 Fri	9/27 Sat	9/30 Tue	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/9 Thu	10/7 Tue	10/5 Sun	10/8 Wed
MELL SENOKO	010E	9/27 Sat	9/28 Sun	9/28 Sun	9/30 Tue	10/2 Thu	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/7 Tue	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/16 Thu	10/14 Tue	10/12 Sun	10/15 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	015E	10/4 Sat	10/5 Sun	10/5 Sun	SKIP	10/9 Thu	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/14 Tue	10/17 Fri	10/18 Sat	10/23 Thu	10/21 Tue	10/19 Sun	10/22 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	023E	10/11 Sat	10/12 Sun	10/12 Sun	10/14 Tue	10/16 Thu	10/17 Fri	10/18 Sat	10/21 Tue	10/24 Fri	10/25 Sat	10/30 Thu	10/28 Tue	10/26 Sun	10/29 Wed
MELL SENOKO	011E	10/18 Sat	10/19 Sun	10/19 Sun	10/21 Tue	10/23 Thu	10/24 Fri	10/25 Sat	10/28 Tue	10/31 Fri	11/1 Sat	11/6 Thu	11/25 Tue	11/23 Sun	11/5 Wed

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Nation

Bush to pull about 8K troops from Iraq by Feb.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush will keep roughly the same number of U.S. forces in Iraq through the end of the year and pull about 8,000 troops home by February, a drawdown that's both slower and smaller than long anticipated.

In a speech to be delivered Tuesday, Bush says more forces could withdraw in the first half of 2009. But for now, the situation isn't changing significantly.

By the time the troops return home on the timeline Bush is proposing, someone else will be making the wartime decisions from the Oval Office.

The measured reductions in troops reflect the military's attempt to protect security gains in Iraq, while also freeing up some added forces in Afghanistan.

The move also shows that Bush still commands when and how troops will withdraw, despite a fiercely opposition Congress and a soured American public.

Bush's decisions amount to perhaps his last major troop strategy in a war that has come to define his presidency. He was to announce the details in a speech Tuesday, the text of which was released in advance by the White House.

In all, about 8,000 U.S. forces will be coming back, the president said.

Bush

One Marine battalion, numbering about 1,000 troops, will go home on schedule in November and not be replaced. An Army brigade of between 3,500 and 4,000 troops will leave in February. Accompanying that combat drawdown will be the withdrawal of about 3,400 support forces over next several months.

"Here is the bottom line: While the enemy in Iraq is still dangerous, we have seized the offensive, and Iraqi forces are becomingly increasingly capable of leading and winning the fight," Bush said in remarks prepared for delivery to the National Defense University in Washington.

There are about 146,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.

Senior defense officials says Bush is adopting a compromise proposal from his military team.

Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, had argued to keep troop levels fairly level through next June—an even longer timeframe than Bush is embracing. But others, including Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said they believed that withdrawing troops more quickly from Iraq represented a small risk compared to the gain that could be made by shifting more to Afghanistan.

Anthony Cordesman, an Iraq expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the emerging plan reflects the concern of U.S. commanders: Rushing U.S. force reductions could lead to instability at a pivotal time of Iraqi political progress and preparedness of Iraqi forces.

"This plan does, however, mean continuing stress on both the active and reserve forces," Cordesman added.

Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama has advocated pulling all U.S. combat forces out of Iraqi within 16 months of taking office. GOP nominee John McCain has said he would rely on the advice of U.S. military commanders to determine the timing and pace of troop reductions.

Both candidates have said more troops are needed in Afghanistan, where there has been a resurgence of the Taliban and a growth in violence.

Bush argued that Iraq is in a better place now by almost any measure. He said violence is at its lowest point since the spring of 2004, "normal life is returning to communities across the country," and political reconciliation is moving forward.

Obama accuses Republican rivals of dishonesty

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., waits to speak during a town hall meeting at North Farmington High School in Farmington Hills, Mich., Monday, Sept. 8, 2008.

FLINT, Mich. (AP)—Barack Obama broadly accused his Republican rivals of dishonesty Monday, citing former lobbyists working for John McCain, Sarah Palin's shifting stance on the "Bridge to Nowhere" and their promise to change Washington.

With national polls finding the Democratic presidential nominee trailing or in a dead heat with McCain, Obama began the campaign's final eight-week push by criticizing McCain's popular running mate as much as the Arizona senator himself.

He said Palin has an interesting biography—"Mother, governor, moose shooter. That's cool," he said—but the election should be about who can change people's lives for the better. He said that won't come from a Republican ticket that almost always supports the same positions as President Bush even though they say they will bring reform.

"I mean, you can't just make stuff up," Obama said of a new McCain ad that says Palin "stopped the Bridge to Nowhere." "You can't just recreate yourself. You can't just reinvent yourself. The American people aren't stupid."

Obama wouldn't go so far as to say McCain and Palin are lying, even when the audience tried to goad him into it, but he began showing an ad Monday that did.

"Politicians lying about their records?" an announcer asks over a shot of McCain and Palin boarding a plane. "You don't call that maverick. You call it more of the same."

McCain spokesman Tucker Bounds responded to the charges of dishonesty by saying: "Barack Obama should familiarize himself with the honest facts: John McCain and Governor Palin have actually reformed government to root out money in politics and fought wasteful spending—Sen. Obama has not."

Obama's ad was a response to the new McCain commercial called "Original Mavericks" that claims Palin stopped the bridge, a $400 million proposal to connect an island off Alaska with just 50 residents and an airport.

She originally voiced support for it during her campaign for governor, although she was critical of the size, and later abandoned plans for the project. She used the federal dollars for other projects in Alaska.

Obama said McCain's claim that lobbyists will no longer run Washington when he's president "doesn't seem very plausible."

McCain uses Palin as fundraising tool

CHICAGO(AP)—Republican John McCain seized on running mate Sarah Palin's popularity to raise money for the party, telling donors at a fundraiser Monday that he's overwhelmed by the buzz she's generating for his White House bid.

"I'm very proud and I'm very pleased at the enthusiasm that's been sparked," the presidential nominee said. The fundraiser followed several days of campaigning in which Palin has nearly overshadowed the head of the ticket.

The first-term Alaska governor has already been good for McCain's fundraising efforts. Of the $47 million he raised in August, $10 million came in the three days after he announced he had chosen her to be his vice presidential running mate, the campaign said.

At the event in Democratic candidate Barack Obama's hometown, McCain also sought to reassure supporters who might be wary about Palin's experience level. She became governor in December 2006 and before that was mayor of small-town Wasilla, Alaska.

"She was thoroughly vetted and I'm proud of the experience and the talent she brings to our ticket, and she will bring to the presidency and vice presidency of the United States of America," McCain said.

McCain also repeated his line against Obama from earlier in the day, when he and Palin criticized the Illinois senator for the amount of money he has requested for his home state, even though Alaska under Palin's leadership has asked Washington for 10 times more money per citizen for pet projects.

At a rally in swing state Missouri, McCain and Palin accused Obama of requesting nearly $1 billion in earmarks for Illinois. The new line of attack came after Obama made his first direct criticism of Palin over the weekend, using the topic of earmarks, which are special projects that lawmakers try to get for their districts and constituents.

WMD report: US remains 'dangerously vulnerable'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States remains "dangerously vulnerable" to chemical, biological and nuclear attacks seven years after 9/11, a forthcoming independent study concludes. And a House Democrats' report says the Bush administration has missed one opportunity after another to improve the nation's security.

The recent political rupture between Russia and the U.S. only makes matters worse, said Lee Hamilton, the former Indiana Democratic congressman who helped lead the 9/11 Commission and now chairs the independent group's latest study.

Efforts to reduce access to nuclear technology and bomb-making materials have slowed, thousands of U.S. chemical plants remain unprotected, and the U.S. government continues to oppose strengthening an international treaty to prevent bioterrorism, according to the report produced by the bipartisan Partnership for a Secure America.

The group includes leaders of the disbanded 9/11 Commission, the bipartisan panel that investigated government missteps before the 2001 terror attacks on the United States.

"The threat of a new, major terrorist attack on the United States is still very real," concludes the report to be released Wednesday, the same day a congressional commission will hold a hearing in New York on nuclear and biological terrorism threats.

"A nuclear, chemical or biological weapon in the hands of terrorists remains the single greatest threat to our nation. While progress has been made in securing these weapons and materials, we are still dangerously vulnerable," the report said.

Ike set to bypass Keys, but Gulf Coast worries

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—Residents in the Florida Keys breathed a sigh of relief Monday as a fierce Hurricane Ike turned west on a path away from the low-lying island chain. But Gulf Coast states watched anxiously to see if the storm was gunning for them instead.

Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center warned that, after passing into the Gulf of Mexico sometime Tuesday night, Ike could make landfall in the U.S. over the weekend near the Texas-Louisiana border, possibly not far from Houston.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry pre-declared disasters in 88 counties to aid storm preparation and put 7,500 National Guard members on standby.

In Louisiana, where thousands remain without power after Hurricane Gustav hit last week, Gov. Bobby Jindal urged residents to start stockpiling food, water, batteries and other supplies. The state also was readying shelters and making plans for trains, buses and planes in case a coastal evacuation is called later in the week.

"It is still too early to be evacuating certainly, but it is not too early to be making sure you've got food and water and batteries. It's not too early to be checking your car," Jindal said.

With the storm on a new track, Keys officials let an evacuation order expire Monday. By late afternoon Ike had weakened to a Category 1 storm, and a hurricane watch for the island chain was discontinued.

Ike is still supposed to deliver heavy rain and wind, and authorities suggested residents who had left stay away until Wednesday. They said those who stayed behind should remain inside, and tourists should wait for the weekend to return. Roughly 20,000 tourists left over the weekend when it looked like Ike could make a direct hit.

Many storm-hardened locals just rode out the hype the way they usually do - drinking. Key West residents are a hardy bunch, generations of whom have lived through storms. They typically take a wait-and-see stance.

"Us folks have lived here for years. We worry but we always think it will be OK," said 80-year-old Barbara Kellner while walking her dog. "And we see the weather report today, and it appears it all will be OK."

Asia

Videos show dead Afghan children after US raid

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The bodies of at least 10 children and many more adults covered in blankets and white shrouds appear in videos obtained by The Associated Press on Monday, lending weight to Afghan and U.N. allegations that a U.S.-led raid last month killed more civilians than the U.S. reported.

The sounds of wailing women mixed with the voices of men shouting inside a white-walled mosque in the western village of Azizabad, where an Afghan government commission and U.N. report said some 90 civilians - including 60 children and 15 women - were killed.

The two grainy videos, apparently taken by cell phones, showed bodies lying side-by-side on the mosque floor, covered by floral-patterned blankets and black-and-white checkered shawls. One young boy lay curled in a fetal position; others looked as though they were asleep. One child had half its head blown off.

Turbaned men walked around, gently lifting the blankets covering the faces of the dead. At least two elderly men were among the dead. There appeared to be several dozen bodies lying on the mosque floor, though a precise count was difficult because of the poor quality of the images.

The videos do not provide proof that 60 children died in the operation, but the images do appear to contradict a U.S. military investigation that found only seven civilians were killed in Azizabad, along with up to 35 militants.

The U.S. said Sunday it would reopen the investigation because of emerging new evidence. On Monday, a Pentagon spokesman said new "imagery evidence" came to the attention over the weekend of Gen. David D. McKiernan, the American commander of the NATO-led force here.

"There is some evidence that suggests that the evidence that the U.S. military used in ... its investigation may not have been complete," Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said.

He said a general to be sent to Afghanistan by U.S. Central Command will review the initial investigation. But it is also possible there will be a new inquiry into the raid in Azizabad - this time conducted by Central Command, said Lt. Cmdr. Bill Speaks, a spokesman for the command in Tampa, Fla.

The Afghan government has agreed to a joint U.S.-U.N.-Afghan investigation, said Sultan Ahmad Baheen, spokesman for Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry. It's not clear when or how that will be conducted.

South Korean leader regrets alleged religious bias

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean President Lee Myung-bak on Tuesday expressed regret to Buddhists who have accused his predominantly Christian Cabinet of discriminating against them.

Lee, a Christian, made the comments at a Cabinet meeting in an attempt to soothe the anger of Buddhists who have accused Lee's administration of pro-Christian bias in personnel appointments and other policies. They have noted that he filled most of his Cabinet and top presidential posts with other Christians.

"It is deeply regrettable that the heart of the Buddhist society has been hurt by words and deeds by some officials that could cause misunderstanding," Lee said in the televised comments.

In a further appeasement gesture, the government also revised the code of conduct for public officials to include a clause that they should maintain religious neutrality when carrying out duties.

Buddhist anger spiked when police inspected the car of a top Buddhist monk in July when he left his Seoul temple where civic activists were holed up to avoid arrests for allegedly organizing illegal rallies. Buddhists took the inspection as a slight to their religion.

Lee

They held a protest rally in Seoul last month that drew 60,000 people, including 7,000 monks clad in gray Buddhist garb, and demanded Lee sack the country's police chief and apologize.

The government has denied any religious discrimination.

Lee's expression of regret came amid media speculation that his government may face bigger protests similar to those over U.S. beef imports that had rocked the new president in his first months in office.

South Korea is a country where religious diversity is widely respected and there is no history of sectarian disputes between Christians and Buddhists.

Buddhism is the oldest major religion in Korea, though Christianity has grown dramatically, especially during the 20th century. According to government census figures, Buddhists made up 22.8 percent of the population in 2005, while Christians accounted for 29.2 percent. Some 48 percent declined to list any religion.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Military: Sri Lankan jets shoot down rebel plane

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankan fighter jets shot down a plane used by the Tamil Tigers' rudimentary air wing for the first time Tuesday, giving the military a huge morale boost amid a major offensive against the rebels, the military said. Though the rebel aircraft have rarely caused major damage, their repeated attacks—and the military's inability to stop them—have been a source of deep frustration and embarrassment for government forces. The fighting began early Tuesday when the rebels launched an artillery barrage at a military base in the northern town of Vavuniya for more than one hour, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said. The attack caused damages and injuries, but the extent of the destruction was not immediately known.

Blasts kill 9 in Pakistan militant stronghold

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Missiles fired from U.S. drone aircraft hit a seminary and houses associated with a Taliban commander, killing at least nine people, including both militants and civilians, officials and witnesses say. With violence spiraling in Afghanistan, Washington is becoming more aggressive about insurgent havens abutting the Afghan border, despite the strain it places on relations with Pakistan just as its new president takes office. Monday's incident occurred in a village in North Waziristan, a militant stronghold in Pakistan's tribal belt and a possible hiding place for Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri. Residents told of seeing two Predator drones in the sky shortly before multiple explosions hit a seminary and several nearby houses in the village of Dande Darba Khel.

Poverty drives mother to kill her 3 children and herself, RP police say

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police say poverty apparently has driven a jobless woman in the Philippines to kill her three young children and herself by getting them to drink toilet cleaner before she also took some. Senior Superintendent Raul Sandoval says the children, aged from 2 to 4, died before reaching a hospital, while their 32-year-old mother died while being treated. He says the woman, Janeth Ponce, left a suicide note in her one-room shack in northern Laguna province's Magdalena township. She asked relatives to forgive her and care for her 7-year-old son who was sleeping in his grandmother's house at the time of the incident.

World

AP

A car sits under rubble after Hurricane Ike hit the area in Holguin, Cuba, Monday, Sept. 8, 2008. Ike, which raked the Bahamas and worsened floods in Haiti that have killed 321 people, made landfall on Cuba as a Category-3 hurricane, then weakened Monday to Category-2 as it ran along the length of the Caribbean's largest island.

Hurricane Ike smashes Cuba, killing at least 4

HAVANA (AP)—Hurricane Ike roared down Cuba's spine Monday and toward the island's densely populated capital of fragile historic buildings after ravaging homes, forcing 1.2 million people to evacuate and killing at least four. U.S. residents from Florida to Texas braced for Ike's next wallop.

Ike, which raked the Bahamas and worsened floods in Haiti that have killed at least 312 people, made landfall on eastern Cuba as a terrifying Category 3 hurricane, then weakened Monday as it ran along the length of the Caribbean's largest island.

It was a Category 1 storm Monday afternoon, but forecasters expected it to strengthen again before hitting Louisiana or Texas this weekend.

"This critter was angry, really angry," Delia Oliveras, 64, said in the central city of Camaguey. Winds tore the roof from the living room where her family was huddled, and they fled to a covered patio. "We have seen hurricanes, but never as big as this."

State television reported that Ike killed four people in Cuba—the first storm deaths on the island in the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season. Two men were killed in central Cuba while removing an antenna from a roof. On the island's east, a woman died when her house collapsed on her and a man was killed by a falling tree.

Cuba, which has carried out well-executed evacuations over the years, ordered 1.2 million people to seek safety with friends and relatives or at government shelters, state television reported. In Havana, where the hurricane was expected to unleash heavy winds and rain by Tuesday morning, evacuations began in earnest late Monday afternoon.

US finds clues in bakery to foil Iraqi terror plot

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—Lt. Christopher Hanes knew something was wrong as soon as he stepped into the Friends bakery. The oven was unused, the water tank was empty and a large concrete bin was full of dirt that the two employees claimed was used to cool cakes.

Hanes and his soldiers moved the water tank and found the entrance to a 50-foot tunnel heading straight for the nearby provincial government headquarters.

The U.S. military believes insurgents planned to tunnel underneath the compound's blast walls and blow up the headquarters building. With 250-300 Iraqis working in the governor's office and perhaps hundreds more there for business, casualties from such a blast could have been catastrophic.

Discovery of the tunnel Sept. 1, the first day of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, drove home a message: Sunni militants have been battered but not defeated despite a monthslong operation by U.S. and Iraqi forces to clear Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Syrian economy opens—will politics follow?

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—At the hip Costa coffeehouse downtown, young Syrians chat over cappuccinos and lattes, laptops propped before them. Shoppers at nearby boutiques try on Prada and Armani designs. Tourists stream in and out of the Four Seasons Hotel.

Syria is transforming itself economically and is starkly different from the drab socialism of just a few years ago. Whether it can change politically at the same pace, and break with its hard-line reputation, remains to be seen.

Already, there are signs of a more flexible Syrian stance in the region. President Bashar Assad has agreed to establish diplomatic ties with Lebanon. He has pursued indirect peace talks with Israel, mediated by Turkey, and says he wants direct talks next year.

In response, the West is slowly changing its 3-year-old policy of isolating Syria and instead trying to engage it.

Australian surfer says he was towed by shark

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A large shark entangled itself in a surfer's leg rope in Australia and began towing him and his board out to sea, the surfer said Tuesday.

John Morgan, a 51-year-old surf shop owner from the east coast tourist town of Byron Bay, compared his terrifying 170-foot ride off a local beach to being towed by a jet ski.

He said he was about 330 yards from shore and paddling out when the 10-foot shark swelled up from underneath him Sunday afternoon.

"It freaked me out," Morgan said. "It bumped my leg rope and next thing it tangled itself in the leg rope and started charging out to sea with me in tow."

"To say it was like being towed by a jet ski might be an exaggeration, but it was really fast," he added.

Morgan said he clung to the board until the shark suddenly freed itself and disappeared. The rope was not damaged and remained attached to the board and his ankle.

Morgan said he was not sure what kind of shark it was.

"He was probably as freaked out as I was," Morgan said.

Campus Life

Math matters

By DANIEL DE VISE
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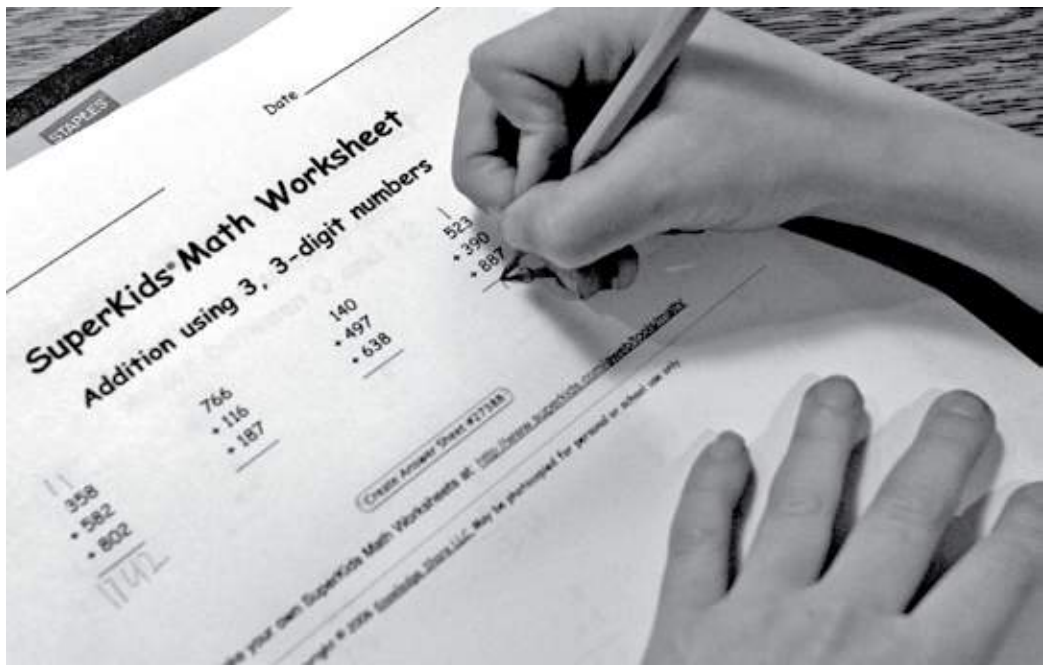


THE WASHINGTON POST
From arithmetic to algebra and beyond, mathematics absorbs a huge amount of class time. Students are pushed to learn more math than ever, and sooner.

WASHINGTON—From arithmetic to algebra and beyond, mathematics absorbs a huge amount of class time. Students are pushed to learn more math than ever, and sooner: An overview of math education issues.

How is math taught?

Parents who walk into an elementary classroom might not recognize a mathematics lesson. Children are likely out of their seats, clustered in boisterous groups, flipping coins or arranging colored tiles. The exercise could be part science experiment, part history lesson, part story time.

Nowadays, hands-on learning is popular. Why ask kids to multiply 6 by 3 with pencil and paper at their desks, teachers ask, when you can use three plates of six doughnuts each?

Math programs in the region run the gamut from more structured, textbook-driven lessons that stress computation to relatively open-ended, exploratory curricula that urge students to solve problems in their own way. School officials contend that all the programs eventually teach the "right" ways to add, subtract, multiply and divide, although some mathematicians say otherwise.

But many teachers consider computation skills the end, not the beginning, of the lesson. Problems are culled from the everyday: If Courtney had 10 brownies, gave 2 to Allison and swiped 5 from Eva, how many does she have now?

"Math is something you can have a lot of fun with," said Heather Wilhelm Menon, an award-winning second-grade teacher at Westgate Elementary School in Falls Church, Va. "The kids are engaged almost all of the time throughout the math period. I don't even want to say period, because I teach math all day."

Math instruction in middle and high school has become a race toward calculus. Algebra is now increasingly taken in the eighth grade. Practical courses, like consumer math, have made way for the time-honored sequence of "pure" math: algebra, geometry, Algebra II, pre-calculus and calculus. Students often go further in math today than their parents did, although some mathematicians say even high-level math courses are watered down.

How much math is taught?

Arguably, too much. It's a common complaint that math lessons are a mile wide and an inch deep. State and local math "standards" are swollen with dozens of skills to be mastered each year under the federal No Child Left Behind law, which put math instruction into overdrive six years ago. Textbooks have ballooned to 700 and 800 pages, striving to include every last standard from every major state.

Much of the math community thinks that the lack of order and priority in standards is part of the reason U.S. students trail those in Singapore and other nations on global math tests. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics tried to set things right in 2006 with Curriculum Focal Points, which spells out three concepts for each grade and a few key subjects, such as the base-10 number system, fractions and algebra, at the core of lessons in math-savvy nations. In fourth grade, Focal Points lists these skills: multiplying and dividing, working with decimals and analyzing two-dimensional shapes.

A key audience is elementary teachers, who tend to be the least experienced in math and might not know which of the 50 "standards" are really important. "Now, it doesn't mean you only do three things in the year," said Henry "Hank" Kepner, president of the national council. "We're saying: `Here are three things that should occupy a huge chunk of time. By the time they leave here, they should really nail down whatever it is.' "

When should kids learn Algebra?

Introductory algebra has emerged as a beacon of math education. Crucial to advanced study, Algebra I is coming to be viewed as the most important math class a student will take.

So why wait until high school? School systems nationwide are pushing more students into Algebra I by eighth grade, if not sooner, to open opportunities in high school and college.

California and Minnesota will soon require all students to take the course in the eighth grade.

Math acceleration begins as early as kindergarten in some regional suburbs. The goal is to reach Algebra I, considered a gateway to success on the SAT and in the Advanced Placement courses. Algebraic concepts such as the polynomial—an expression built from numbers and variables—form the basis for more advanced study in math and science.

There is a downside. Some parents think children are being pushed too far, too fast. Casualties of math acceleration are keeping tutors in business. And some algebra teachers inevitably water down the course to ensure that students pass. That is one risk of quotas and mandates, such as the one California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, R, championed.

"What this means is that, in the end, no kid will take algebra," said Stanford mathematician R. James Milgram, who has written algebra texts. "They will take a course that is only called 'algebra'."

What's the fuss over math?

For decades, educators have debated mathematicians over the primacy of content (what gets taught) vs. pedagogy (how math gets taught). Mathematicians tend to believe content should drive instruction: Decide what concepts should be taught and in what order, and then build a curriculum. Many educators believe pedagogical concerns should come first: Build a lesson plan that teaches concepts in ways students are most likely to understand them.

Mathematicians contend that some programs are too light on content and too heavy on fun and games. Parents occasionally join in the criticism. Teach Math Right in Prince William County, Va., is a group opposed to the progressive "Investigations" textbook used in public schools there.

"Everybody who knows math says these programs aren't worth much," said W. Stephen Wilson, a math professor at Johns Hopkins University. "And then these school districts pick them and use them."

Some educators say that math purists shouldn't lose sight of the ultimate goal—student learning. Mathematicians generally aren't third-grade teachers. Children don't necessarily gain much by memorizing the times table and solving number problems if they cannot relate the skills to everyday life, these educators contend, a concept reflected in the "Everyday Mathematics" textbook.

The purists may be gaining influence, through a report this year from a presidential advisory panel and other developments. But mathematicians and educators agree on many key matters, including the need for more specialized math teachers and the importance of simplifying and prioritizing what is taught.

Math books: A sampling

By DANIEL DE VISE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

The elementary math program a school system chooses influences classroom lessons. Some texts are identified with the progressive education movement; others have a more traditional approach. Many systems use both types of books, varying by grade level or school.

Everyday Mathematics — Links math and life experience.

Investigations in Number, Data, and Space — Uses games and activities to convey concepts.

Harcourt Math and *Think Math!* — These comparatively traditional texts focus on mastery and retention of key skills.

Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley Mathematics — Focuses on key ideas and step-by-step instruction.

ASK THE EXPERTS

How to pay for college

WASHINGTON—Three Washington-area experts answer the question: What's the best way to pay for college if I haven't got much money socked away?

RIC EDELMAN
Chairman of Edelman Financial Services in Fairfax, Va.

I regret there are no secrets for those who failed to plan ahead.

If you haven't saved enough to pay for college, prepare to incur debt.

The Stafford federal loan and other programs are available — check with the school's financial aid office — but you may also be forced to borrow against home equity (if you have any).

You can minimize the debt by minimizing the expense. Attend an in-state school to keep tuition low, live at home to avoid the cost of room and board, work part time to raise cash or attend school part time while working full time, ideally for an employer that offers a tuition reimbursement plan.

You should also consider community college for the first two years. It will save a huge amount of money, and you can later transfer to an in-state school to complete your degree without any career risk (employers tend to ask only where you obtained your degree).

STEVEN THALHEIMER
Principal of Thalheimer Financial Planning in Silver Spring, Md.

First and foremost, do not rob your retirement funds to pay for your kid's college. Your children may end up with a great job, and you end up spending your golden years punching a time clock.

If you do have adequate cash flow and you can forgo a few trips to your favorite restaurant, you may be able to fund the education right out of your paycheck. While this may work for some, applying for educational loans and/or grant and scholarship programs will be better for others. And getting free money or money at a low cost has great appeal.

Do not forget that your kids can get a job. Working on or off campus may pay for a significant portion of the cost. As a last resort, borrowing from home equity can be a timely alternative.

Keep in mind that there are many great schools. Not all of our young adults need to go the Ivy League route.

KELLY CAMPBELL
President and chief executive of Campbell Wealth Management in Fairfax, Va.

Set realistic expectations and keep the decision on how to pay for children's college educations within the entire context of a family's financial situation — along with cash flow, home affordability, saving for retirement and other goals.

Work with your high school's guidance department to apply for federal needs-based financial aid. Private organizations and foundations, state and local governments and the colleges themselves are additional sources of needs- and achievement-based financial aid. For do-it-yourselfers looking to pay for college, www.finaid.org is a great resource.

Have the students live at home and attend a public or community college for the first two years, then transfer to another school to complete their education and obtain their degree. This is especially good for the student who may not yet know what field of study interests them. ***((c) 2008, The Washington Post)***

Life & Style

BARACK OBAMA ON CABLE:

Duel of softballs vs shout-downs

NEW YORK (AP)—Barack Obama competed against himself Monday with interviews airing simultaneously on two different networks. They might as well have been two different galaxies.

The Democrat waded into cable TV's blood feud, between Keith Olbermann of MSNBC and Bill O'Reilly of Fox News Channel, becoming as much a bit player as any even-odds presidential candidate can be.

In one interview Obama had to fight—not always successfully—to keep from being shouted down. In the other he couldn't succeed in keeping a straight face at the ease of the softballs tossed at him.

We'll leave you to guess which is which.

Obama sat down with O'Reilly first last week. The Fox News Channel host aired a portion of the interview last Thursday, and it became the second-highest rated episode of "The O'Reilly Factor" ever. He'll spread the interview out over two more nights this week.

O'Reilly came after the senator for an income tax plan that Obama said would lower tax rates for 95 percent of Americans while increasing rates for the richest citizens to Clinton administration levels.

The Fox host complained that Obama wanted "50 percent of my success." They fought briefly over numbers, and Obama said to O'Reilly, "you can afford that." O'Reilly said Obama's plans would promote class warfare. He called him "Robin Hood Obama" and said his tax plan was a "socialist tenet."

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., hugs a child after a town hall meeting at North Farmington High School in Farmington Hills, Mich., Monday, Sept. 8, 2008.

"If I'm sitting pretty and you've got a waitress who is making minimum wage plus tips, and I can afford it and she can't, what's the big deal for me to say I'm going to pay a little more?" Obama said. "That's neighborliness."

O'Reilly said he and others he knew would be be making less stock transfers if the Obama tax plan went through. "It's going to come back and haunt you, senator," O'Reilly said.

It was a much different atmosphere at the MSNBC studio in Rockefeller Center. Olbermann interviewed Obama campaign on Monday and will run it in two parts with the second one on Tuesday.

He criticized a McCain television ad that characterized him and Palin as mavericks who can get things done.

What, he asked Obama, could he do to prevent people from lying about his record? "Why do people hesitate to use the word `lie' about these things?"

Olbermann drew the smile from Obama when he asked whether the candidate should use more "exclamation points" in its statements. "Have you thought of getting angrier?" he asked.

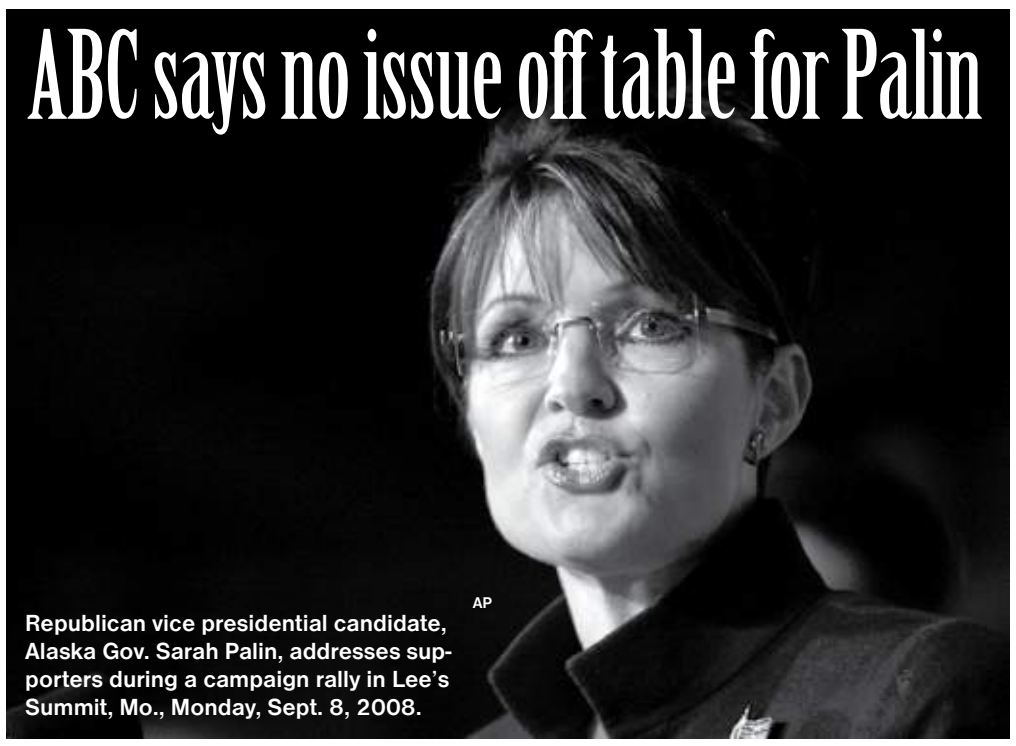
He praised Obama for his use of the word "enough" in his convention acceptance speech and wondered why the Republicans, in his words, were having success muddying the waters of the campaign.

"The Republicans cannot always govern, but they run very smart campaigns," Obama said.

O'Reilly said he had frequently interrupted Obama because he didn't want to let him wander. Olbermann let him wander, lapse into stump speeches, and ducked when Olbermann asked him the most direct question, about whether he believed Sarah Palin had enough experience to be president.

"I'll let Gov. Palin answer that," Obama said with a smile. "I'm sure she'll be appearing on your show."

ABC says no issue off table for Palin



AP

Republican vice presidential candidate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, addresses supporters during a campaign rally in Lee's Summit, Mo., Monday, Sept. 8, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)—Charles Gibson's producer says no issue is off the table for Sarah Palin's first TV interview as a vice presidential candidate, which ABC is hoping it can air in part on Thursday.

Gibson will travel to Alaska and will probably speak to Palin at least twice. The challenge for ABC will be making excerpts available in time for "World News" Thursday, which Gibson must broadcast live from that state at 2:30 p.m. local time, said Jon Banner, the broadcast's executive producer.

Gibson was a no-show Monday at a news conference called by ABC to tout its effort to report election stories from all 50 states because executives said he was starting to prepare for the interview.

The ABC anchor interviewed GOP presidential candidate John McCain at the Republican convention last week. He said he thought hard about it, but decided not to ask questions then about Palin's family, including her 17-year-old pregnant daughter.

That doesn't necessarily mean the issue won't come up with Palin, Banner said.

"I don't think there is any doubt that this is a big interview for him and for us," he said.

Even though Palin's handlers chose Gibson over CBS' Katie Couric and "60 Minutes," there was some talk in news circles about whether MSNBC's opinionated programming was hurting NBC News' ability to book such an interview. MSNBC executives decided over the weekend to replace Keith Olbermann and Chris Matthews as anchors of their political coverage with David Gregory.

"All I know is I was delighted they chose us over someone else," said ABC News President David Westin.

Westin said he believed there were advantages for ABC in trying to play it straight with its coverage.

"There is still an audience that comes to us because they believe we're going to tell them the truth, as opposed to `let's garner all the evidence we can for what position we like,'" he said.

He said NBC News faces a challenge in deciding how it works with MSNBC, or whether it tries to keep some degree of separation.

Michael Moore to release new film online for free

NEW YORK (AP)—Inspired by Neil Young and Radiohead, Michael Moore will release his new film online and for free.

The film, "Slacker Uprising," follows Moore's 62-city tour during the 2004 election to rally young voters. It will be available for three weeks as a free download to North American residents, beginning Sept. 23. An official announcement of the film is planned for Friday.

Moore said he considered releasing "Slacker Uprising" theatrically as "Michael Moore's big election year movie" as he did with 2004's "Fahrenheit 9/11," which was highly critical of President Bush.

Moore

Instead, Moore opted for a symbol of gratitude to his fans as he approaches the 20th anniversary of his first film, 1989's "Roger & Me."

"I thought it'd be a nice way to celebrate my 20th year of doing this," Moore said. "And also help get out the vote for November. I've been thinking about what I want to do to help with the election this year."

The 97-minute long "Slacker Uprising" will be the first major film to be released in such a way. Last December, "Jackass 2.5" was streamed online and for free, but that was only a collection of left over material from "Jackass 2." Companies like ClickStar, which Morgan Freeman co-founded, have made films still in theaters—such as 2006's "10 Items or Less"—digitally available for purchase or rental.

Experimentation in distribution has been more common in the music industry, where the Internet has significantly damaged traditional business models. Moore took notice when Radiohead last year released their seventh album, "In Rainbows," online with optional pricing. In 2006, Neil Young streamed his anti-war album "Living With War" for free before its standard release—now a more common practice.

If history is any measure, "Slacker Uprising" could have made a decent sum in theaters. His last two films, "Sicko" ($24 million) and "Fahrenheit 9/11" ($119 million) are two of the three highest grossing documentaries ever.

Moore said that "Slacker Uprising" cost about $2 million to make and that he will end up paying about $1 million out of his pocket. Neither he nor the distributor, Brave New Films, plan to profit from the release.

The director's last film, "Sicko," leaked online and was downloaded illegally in large numbers. He says this download, offered by BlipTV, will be high-resolution and far better than "YouTube quality."

To receive the download, people can sign up at SlackerUprising.com. A "Night of a Thousand House Parties" is planned for Oct. 4, when local neighborhood screenings are hoped to be scheduled. A DVD will be released Oct. 7.

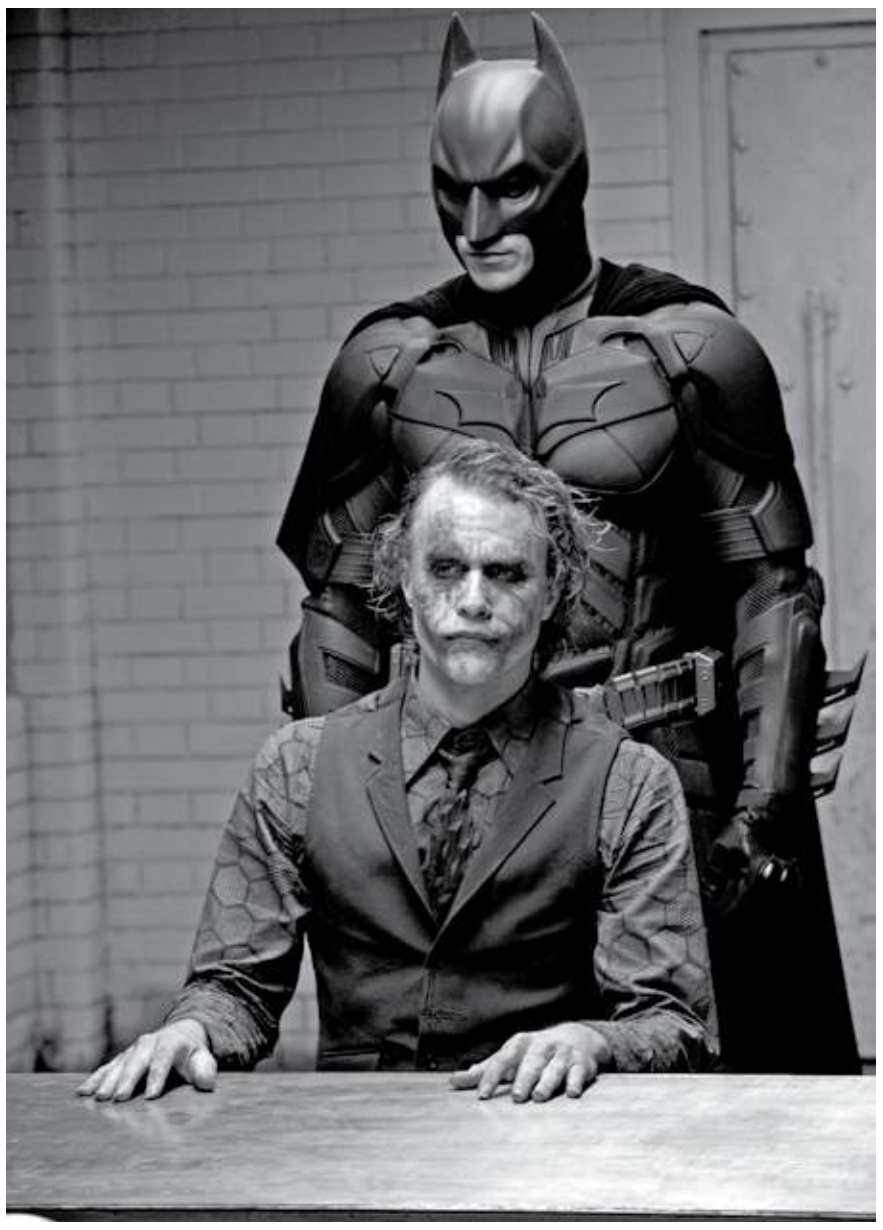
Moore last week released a paperback book, "Mike's Election Guide 2008" and is currently working on a movie for theatrical release next year. That film is expected to examine America as an empire, but the director declined to discuss any details about it.

For now, Moore hopes "Slacker Uprising" will help spur young people to vote this November. After more than 20 million 18 to 29-year-olds cast ballots in 2004 (an 11 percent increase from 2000), he's hoping even greater numbers of "slackers" vote this year.

Moore readily acknowleges this a film for Democrats.

"This film, really isn't for anybody other than the choir," said Moore. "But that's because I believe the choir needs a song to sing every now and then."

Can 'Dark Knight' compete with Oscar heavyweights?



AP

In this file image originally released by Warner Bros., Heath Ledger starring as The Joker, is shown in a scene with Christian Bale, starring as Batman in "The Dark Knight."

TORONTO (AP)—The last time a movie topped a half-billion dollars at the domestic box office, it sailed away with most of the Oscars.

That was "Titanic" 11 years back. This time, it's "The Dark Knight," a critically acclaimed film but a genre picture that will be a tougher sell to Academy Award voters, except for the performance delivered by Heath Ledger.

As Hollywood enters the prestige season, when studios unveil most of their awards contenders, Ledger seems a solid bet for an acting nomination as the maniacal bad guy the Joker. The role has been classified as one of the best villains in Hollywood history, a remarkable turn by the actor who died in January of an accidental prescription drug overdose.

While "The Dark Knight" also should score well in technical categories, its Oscar prospects are slim for other key awards, among them an acting honor for Christian Bale, reprising his "Batman Begins" lead role with an exceptional delivery as the comic-book superhero.

"There are no prospects for that," Bale said shortly before "The Dark Knight" came out in July. "It's the genre thing again, but hey, look, I'm very happy with what I did and what I set out to do. But it's not award-worthy. It's not the kind of thing that gets it. Listen, Heath's performance is extraordinary, and I'm quite happy to say he steals the show. He does, absolutely. He's just phenomenal in it."

With "The Dark Knight" finally winding down at theaters after crossing the $500 million mark, studios are beginning to roll out their serious awards contenders, though Oscar night Feb. 22 remains nearly six months off.

The Toronto International Film Festival, along with the Venice and Telluride fests, traditionally launch the marathon of screenings, interviews and celebrity appearances that lead up the Oscars.

"Toronto has a track record over the years of breaking films for awards consideration," said Piers Handling, director of the festival that runs through Saturday. "We're perfectly positioned in September to sort of tee it off."

Among films that played Toronto in advance of their Oscar triumphs were best-picture champs "American Beauty" and "Crash." Acting winners Philip Seymour Hoffman ("Capote"), Reese Witherspoon ("Walk the Line"), Forest Whitaker ("The Last King of Scotland") and Tilda Swinton ("Michael Clayton") also gained early exposure in Toronto.

While surprise contenders almost always materialize near year's end, the lineup so far looks heavy on familiar Oscar names, a veteran or two finally getting recognition, and a handful of fresh faces.

The Toronto lineup includes such potential contenders as past Oscar nominee Keira Knightley for her period piece "The Duchess," Anne Hathaway for her stark family drama "Rachel Getting Married" and relative unknown Sally Hawkins for the comic drama "Happy-Go-Lucky."

Hawkins offers a stellar performance as a teacher whose eternal optimism is put through the ringer in the latest from director Mike Leigh, who has a history of putting British actresses on Hollywood's map with such films as "Secrets & Lies" and "Vera Drake."

Another Toronto star in a potential breakout role is Omar Benson Miller, who steals the show as a gentle giant among a foursome of U.S. soldiers in "Miracle at St. Anna," Spike Lee's tale about members of an all-black unit trapped behind enemy lines in Italy during World War II.

Like most stars and filmmakers entering awards season, Lee brushed aside the Oscar prospects for his film.

"Not concerned. It's not why I make films," Lee said. "If it happens, it happens. If it doesn't, it doesn't."

Potential nominees usually opt for humility; no one wants to jinx their chances by talking too openly about taking home one of those little gold statues.

"I'd go insane," said Daniel Craig, who follows his James Bond adventure "Quantum of Solace" in November with the World War II Jewish resistance drama "Defiance" a month later. "I'd be lying to you if I said I never think about it, but I really do try to think about it as little as possible."

Toronto offers only a sneak peek of awards season, with end-of-the-year releases such as "Defiance" still under wraps. Unknown quantities on the Oscar radar include World War II adventures from Nicole Kidman ("Australia," which reunites her with "Moulin Rouge" director Baz Luhrmann), and her ex, Tom Cruise ("Valkyrie").

Past nominee Cruise sidestepped Oscar questions about "Valkyrie," which had been scheduled for release early next year but was moved into the last week of December, the heart of awards time.

"I just want to make movies. I love making movies and entertaining audiences," Cruise said. "Those other things, those things I leave to others. It's always nice when you get nominated. It's really nice. It's a fun evening. It's wonderful to be recognized. But I must tell you, I just can't wait for people to see this movie."

Among other awards hopefuls are Sean Penn's "Milk," in which he stars as slain gay politician Harvey Milk; Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr.'s music saga "The Soloist"; the Catholic school drama "Doubt" with Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams; and Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett's "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," about a man who ages backward.

Pitt's romantic partner Angelina Jolie drew solid Oscar buzz at May's Cannes Film Festival for Clint Eastwood's missing-child drama "Changeling." Eastwood also has a second film arriving in December, in which he directs himself as a veteran coping with prejudice against immigrant neighbors.

Oscar winner Ron Howard offers "Frost/Nixon," featuring Frank Langella as Richard Nixon and Michael Sheen as interviewer David Frost, reprising their stage roles. Director Howard would not discuss his own chances for another Oscar, though he could not conceal his enthusiasm for his collaborators.

"It's probably not for me to say at this point, but they're remarkable performances. They really are, and the writing is just outstanding," Howard said. "I'm very proud of the movie, and I'd love nothing better than for it to find its way into the awards-season discussion."

"Titanic" co-stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet also could sail back into the awards discussion with their domestic drama "Revolutionary Road."

"I've learned throughout my career never to ever project your chances on anything having to do with awards. You never know what's going to happen," DiCaprio said. "You can't say you never think about these things, but on any movie you do, it's amazing how many different elements can be a positive or negative on situations like that. You never know what people are going to respond to."

On co-star Winslet, who has five Oscar nominations without a win, DiCaprio is clear, though.

"I can tell you," he said, "I'll be voting for her."

Teena Marie, Chaka Khan honored with Pioneer Award

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Teena Marie was first recognized as an R&B talent in the 1970s when she signed a recording deal with Motown at the tender age of 19.

Now, the self-proclaimed "Ivory Queen of Soul" is being recognized for a nearly 30-year career that has included collaborations with industry giants from Rick James to Smokey Robinson, as well as a Grammy-nominated solo repertoire.

Teena Marie is one of nine artists receiving a Pioneer Award from the Philadelphia-based Rhythm & Blues Foundation at a gala ceremony Tuesday night.

"I'm very, very excited," Marie said in a phone interview. "All my idols that I grew up on are going to be there."

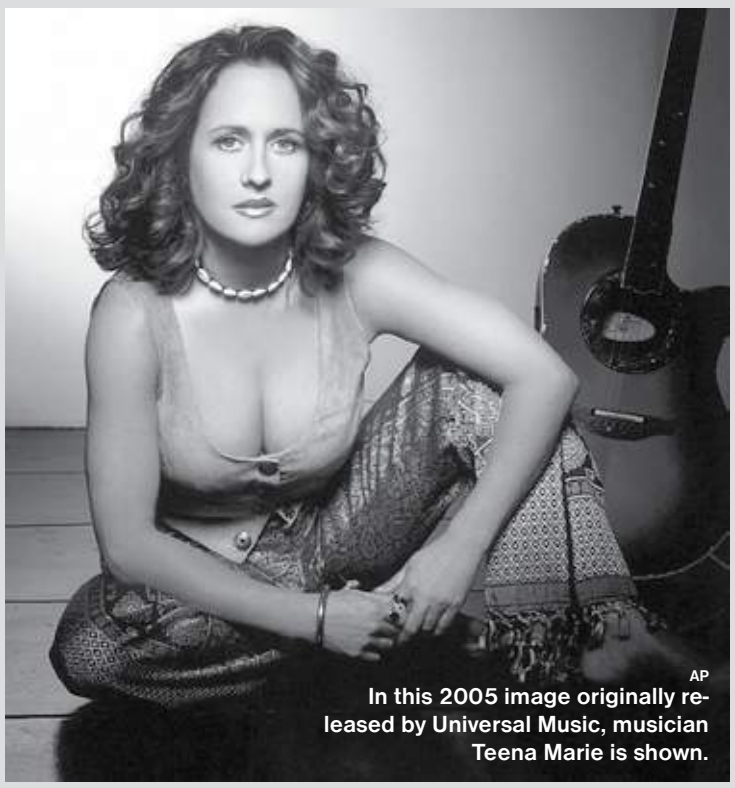
The other honorees are Chaka Khan, Kool & The Gang, Bill Withers, The Whispers, The Funk Brothers, Donny Hathaway, Sugar Pie DeSanto and Al Bell. The awards were last given in 2006 by the R&B Foundation, which is dedicated to celebrating and preserving the genre, and to assisting artists in need.

Teena Marie, 52, has been a pioneer in more than one sense. Besides being a white woman in a mostly black genre, she also won a precedent-setting lawsuit against Motown in 1982.

But her robust, soulful voice is what put her on the R&B map - and what has kept her there for nearly three decades. Admirers also cite her versatility; some of her later work includes a pairing with hip-hop star Kurupt, and her songs have been sampled by artists including Ludacris and The Fugees.

"I guess you could really call her a true soul sister," said R&B Foundation chairman Kendall Minter.

Born Mary Christine Brockert, Teena Marie began singing as a child in Los Angeles. She put out her first album, "Wild and Peaceful," in 1979 under the tutelage of funk legend James. In addition to producing the debut, James and Marie sang a duet called "I'm a Sucker for Your Love," which hit No. 8 on the R&B charts.



AP

In this 2005 image originally released by Universal Music, musician Teena Marie is shown.

But the album did not feature Marie's picture - the only one of her records 12 without it. Marie said officials at Motown did not want people to know she was white; they wanted the record judged on its merits.

"I'll never really know what difference it made. I guess it worked," she said.

After three more albums with Motown, Marie wanted to jump to another label. Motown sued to stop her, but a California court ruled that a label cannot prevent an artist from recording for a competitor unless it guarantees the artist a certain amount of money per year. Marie then signed with Epic.

Her biggest hit, the Grammy-nominated "Lovergirl," crossed over from the R&B to the pop charts and peaked at No. 4 in 1985. She earned another nomination for the song "I'm Still in Love," released on her comeback album "La Dona" in 2004.

Teena Marie, who lives with her 16-year-old daughter in Pasadena, Calif., still tours frequently. Her 13th album, tentatively titled "Congo Square," is slated for release next year and will feature duets with her daughter and Nancy Wilson, Marie said.

Since being notified of the Pioneer Award, she's been thinking a lot about James, with whom she had an often tumultuous relationship until his death four years ago.

"I feel like he's a part of this," Marie said. "I know he would be very, very proud of me."

Marie is scheduled to perform "Casanova Brown," which she calls her "masterpiece," at the award ceremony at the Kimmel Center. She'll be accompanied by an orchestra, a career first for her.

"All in all, it's been a wonderful, wonderful ride," Marie said. "I don't plan on stopping anytime soon."

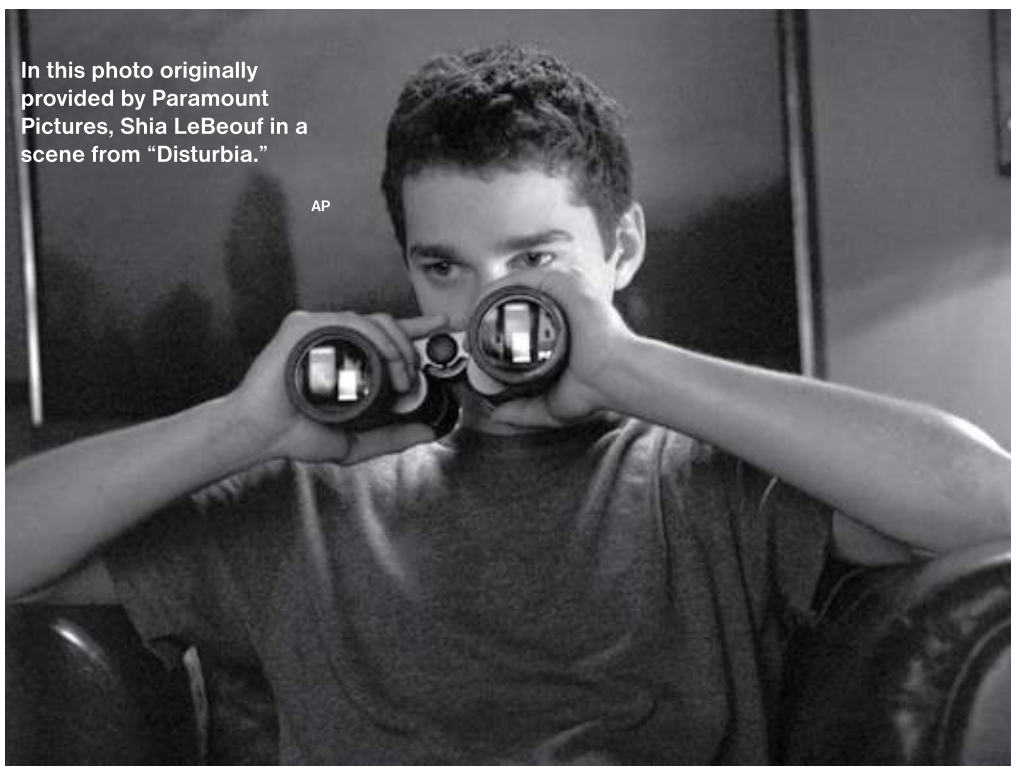
NY lawsuit claims 'Disturbia' copied short story

NEW YORK (AP)—A lawsuit claims Steven Spielberg, DreamWorks and Paramount Pictures Corp. ripped off "Rear Window" when they made the movie "Disturbia." The 2007 thriller "Disturbia" stars Shia LaBeouf as a kid who spies on neighbors, including a man he suspects is a serial killer.

The copyright infringement lawsuit, filed Monday in Manhattan, says "Disturbia" copied a short story Cornell Woolrich wrote in 1942 and the 1954 Alfred Hitchcock movie that starred James Stewart and Grace Kelly and was based on the story.

Woolrich died in 1968. The rights to "Rear Window" were sold to Sheldon Abend, who died in 2003. His estate brought the lawsuit, which seeks unspecified damages.

Representatives for Spielberg, DreamWorks and Paramount said they don't comment on pending litigation.



In this photo originally provided by Paramount Pictures, Shia LeBeouf in a scene from "Disturbia."

AP

Rourke's 'Wrestler' acquired by Fox Searchlight

TORONTO (AP)—Darren Aronofsky's "The Wrestler," a drama starring Mickey Rourke that won top honors last weekend at the Venice Film Festival, was picked up Monday for U.S. distribution by Fox Searchlight.

Scheduled for release in December, "The Wrestler" likely will leap into the Academy Awards picture, particularly for Rourke's acclaimed turn as a one-time marquee figure on the professional wrestling circuit who now scrapes by on weekend bouts.

"Darren Aronofsky has created an unbelievably electrifying and compelling tale with tour de force performances," Peter Rice, president of Fox Searchlight, said as the company bought domestic rights for the film a day after its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival.

"The Wrestler" features Rourke in a mesmerizing role as Randy "The Ram" Robinson, a former wrestling star who describes himself as a broken-down piece of meat but still scrapes by on gigs in the ring, though he's reduced to working a day job at a supermarket to survive.

The film co-stars Marisa Tomei as a stripper he pursues romantically and Evan Rachel Wood as his estranged daughter.

Rourke, 51, has flitted in and out of favor in Hollywood for decades, making an early splash in 1982's "Diner" and starring in such '80s films as "Angel Heart" and "Barfly." In 2005, he earned solid notices in the graphic-novel adaptation "Sin City."

Aronofsky directed the critical favorites "Pi" and "Requiem for a Dream" but stumbled with the 2006 commercial misfire "The Fountain."

Madea comes to theaters early

NEW YORK (AP)—Here comes Madea, a few months early.

Theaters showing Tyler Perry's "The Family That Preys," which opens Friday, will show a sneak peek of the third installment of his popular Madea movies, "Madea Goes to Jail." The movie isn't due out until Feb. 20, 2009.

"For countless fans, Madea is like family," said Tim Palen, co-president, theatrical marketing for studio Lionsgate, of the tough-talking grandmother audiences love and critics lambaste.

In contrast to the heavily comedic Madea movies, "The Family That Preys" stars Kathy Bates and Alfre Woodard in a drama about two families from different social classes.

The Madea movies are historically box office successes. "Madea's Family Reunion," debuted at No. 1 in February 2006, following the No. 1 debut of "Diary of Mad Black Woman" in February 2005. The two were made for a combined $11 million and grossed $150 million total.

Perry plays Madea as well writes and directs the movies.

DeGeneres returns with first show since marriage

NEW YORK (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres premiered her sixth season as host of "Ellen" with two notable changes: a new studio and a wedding ring. The syndicated talk show returned Monday with a taped episode from the show's new set on the Warner Bros. studio lot in Los Angeles.

It was DeGeneres' first show since marrying actress Portia de Rossi in August.

"This is my first show as a married lady," DeGeneres announced, flashing her wedding ring.

The audience gave her a standing ovation.

DeGeneres, 50, and Rossi were wed in an intimate ceremony at their Beverly Hills home. The Emmy-winning host and Rossi had dated for four years and announced that they would marry after the California Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriages in May.

"Who knew John McCain and I would have something in common," she joked. "We both chose female running mates."

AP

Ellen DeGeneres shows off her wedding ring before the Stand Up to Cancer benefit at the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles, Friday, Sept. 5, 2008.

Man charged with assault on Oasis' Noel Gallagher

TORONTO (AP)—Oasis rocker Noel Gallagher was attacked at a concert, and the alleged assailant was charged Monday.

The British band was midway through its headlining set at the Virgin Festival on Toronto's Olympic Island Sunday night when a man rushed the band from the back of the stage. He pushed Gallagher, causing him to fall on his speakers.

Security personnel quickly apprehended Daniel Sullivan, 47, from Pickering, Ontario. Police said Monday that he was charged with assault.

"Everyone was shocked. The fan came out of nowhere - no one even saw him run on stage, people just saw Noel fall and then people started yelling," said concertgoer Twyla DeMello.

The band members promptly left the stage and the lights came on, leaving fans confused. Minutes later, the band returned to resume its set.

The band's Web site said Monday that Noel was taken to the hospital after the show to be examined for a suspected fractured rib and ligament damage.

Sullivan was released from custody on a promise to appear in court Oct. 24.

Dogs take woman's place in man's affections and bed

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I love dogs, but they're ruining my marriage. "Ivan" and I have been together 12 years, married for five. Six years ago, he had to put his aged, sickly pointer, "Sergeant," to sleep.

Two years ago, I began suggesting that we get another dog. I felt Ivan had mourned Sergeant long enough, and it was time for another. We found a lovely King Charles spaniel that we named Lili. We spent a lot of fun time with her that spring and summer, then thought a playmate might be good company for her during the day while we were at work. We found Branford, another spaniel.

At night we'd put both dogs in the kitchen, tell them goodnight, put up a gate and go to bed. But Branford would cry. I told Ivan he'd stop eventually, but Ivan couldn't just leave him, so he began bringing the two dogs into our bedroom and allowing them to sleep at the foot of our bed. I have pleaded with Ivan to return them downstairs, but he won't consider it.

Guess where they're sleeping today? IN the bed. Guess where I'm sleeping? On the couch downstairs.

We haven't been out on a date since the dogs arrived. We don't go out with friends because we must be back by 10 p.m.—the dogs' bedtime, and Ivan's, too, of course. He is oblivious to me from the time he goes to bed with the dogs. We haven't had sex in a year.

Everything is about the dogs. He even prepares their meals from scratch each day—boiled chicken with rice, peas and carrots. He says: "I told you I get attached to dogs. You said you wanted them; this is what you have to deal with." I am at my breaking point. Help!

ONLY HIS WIFE IN WILMINGTON

DEAR WIFE: I'm sorry to say this, but the dogs aren't your problem; they're only a symptom. Your husband has turned them into a buffer. When a man would rather sleep with his dogs than his wife and "forgets" about sex for a year, something is wrong with the marriage.

You need more help than anyone can give you in a letter. So start looking for a licensed marriage counselor. If your husband won't go with you, go alone. Something tells me you're going to need all the emotional support you can get, because your marriage has gone to the bowwows.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I recently attended a party at my parents' house. During dinner, one of the guests' cell phone went off, twice! He answered it both times and held lengthy conversations, and all the while my father was "shushing" the rest of us. I think both were remarkably rude.

My father believes that telephone calls take precedence over everything else, and that the guest "had" to answer his phone and that WE would have been rude to continue talking while he was on the phone.

Anything you can say to change his mind?

NOT WILD ABOUT PHONES

DEAR NOT WILD: It depends upon how stubborn a person your father is. Good manners dictate that when someone is attending a dinner party, his/her cell phone be turned off so conversation at the table isn't interrupted. If that's not possible, then rather than imposing on everyone else, the call recipient should leave the table and talk privately with the caller.

For the host to insist that everyone at the table remain silent for the duration of the conversation was rude to the other guests, and must have put a real damper on the party.

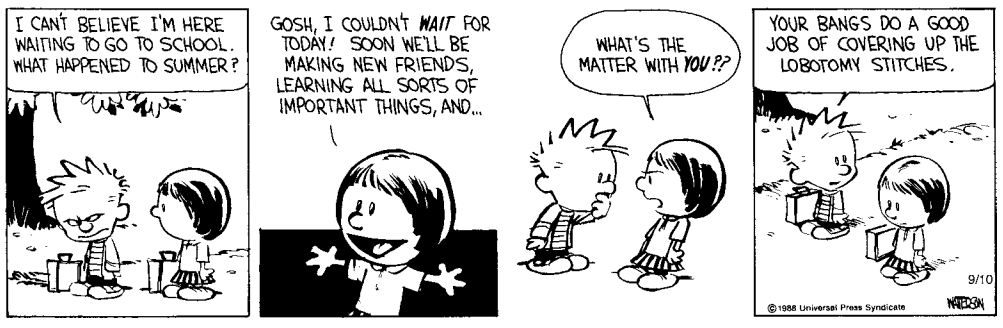
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M HERE WAITING TO GO TO SCHOOL. WHAT HAPPENED TO SUMMER?
GOSH, I COULDN'T WAIT FOR TODAY! SOON WE'LL BE MAKING NEW FRIENDS, LEARNING ALL SORTS OF IMPORTANT THINGS, AND...
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU??
YOUR BANGS DO A GOOD JOB OF COVERING UP THE LOBOTOMY STITCHES.
9/10
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

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CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
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WOO-HOO!
JIM DAVIS 9-10
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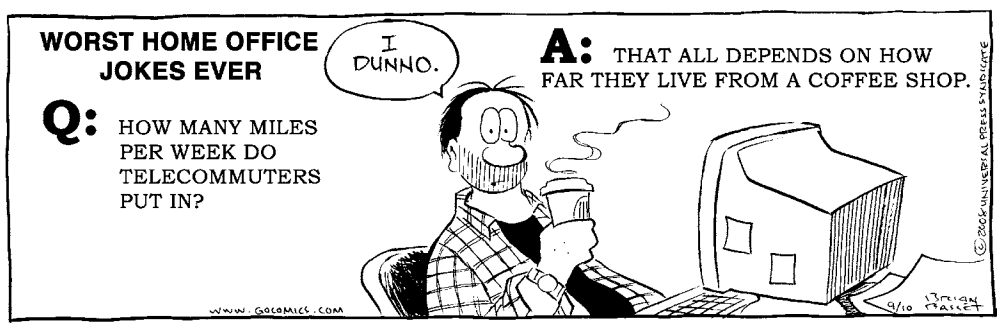
By Bryan Basset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I DUNNO.
A: THAT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW FAR THEY LIVE FROM A COFFEE SHOP.
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9/10
Brian Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

TWO TICKETS.
WAIT, ENO. I JUST NOTICED SOMETHING. THIS SIGN SAYS "UNDER 17 NOT ADMITTED."
DANG.
THERE'S ONLY TWO OF US. WE'LL HAVE TO FIND FIFTEEN MORE PEOPLE.
NOW SHOWING
Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

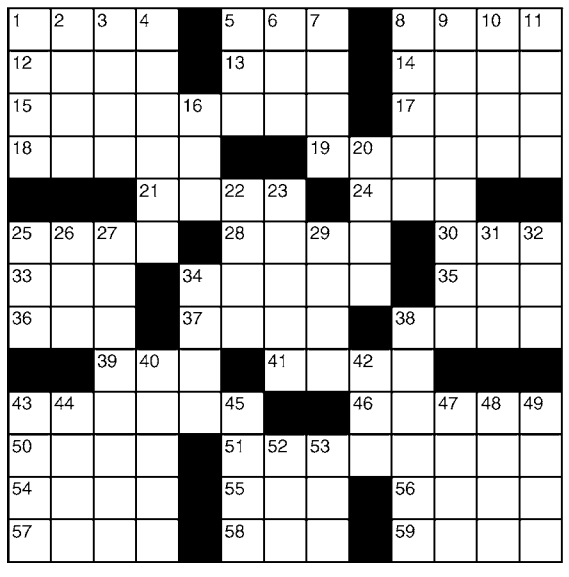
ACROSS
1 Microwave, e.g.
5 Upper limit
8 Mid-month date
12 Sandwich shop
13 Ruckus
14 Catastrophic
15 Tosses out
17 Slave to crosswords?
18 Insomniac's need
19 Found the source of
21 Unchaste
24 Right angle
25 "— and the Tramp"
28 Colored
30 One who gives a hoot?
33 Midafternoon, on a sundial
34 "Saturday Night Fever" venue
35 Vast expanse
36 Type squares
37 Egyptian cross
38 Honk
39 Sardines container
41 Bygone times
43 Moocher
46 Dirty words
50 Jeans-maker Strauss
51 Unobtrusive
54 Works with
55 Wildebeest
56 Knighted woman
57 Oliver Twist's request
58 — out a living
59 Feed the hogs

DOWN
1 Probability
2 Bride's accessory
3 Otherwise
4 Well
5 Auto
6 Affix
7 Fence part
8 Perfect
9 Reveal
10 Sea eagle
11 Progeny
16 Mimic
20 Start over
22 Yellow-flowered shrub
23 Dark, as twilight
25 Big fib
26 Intend
27 Find
29 Reverberate
31 Teensy
32 Toddler's perch
34 "Consarn it!"
38 Facial growths
40 Biscotti flavor
42 Fabled flier
43 Run-down part of the city
44 Mexican money
45 Advantage
47 Blue shade
48 Blood (Pref.)
49 Flight component
52 Squid fluid
53 Seek damages

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	O	A	M	■	A	K	A	■	P	A	C	E
A	U	T	O	■	I	O	N	■	S	L	U	G
P	R	E	T	O	R	I	A	■	E	U	R	O
■	■	■	L	A	Y	■	C	R	U	M	B	S
A	F	T	E	R	■	G	O	O	D	■	■	■
X	R	A	Y	■	S	E	N	S	O	R	I	A
L	A	M	■	F	U	N	D	S	■	E	N	D
E	U	P	H	O	R	I	A	■	M	A	T	E
■	■	■	E	A	V	E	■	M	Y	R	O	N
A	L	K	A	L	I	■	S	O	W	■	■	■
R	I	E	L	■	V	I	C	T	O	R	I	A
I	S	N	T	■	O	V	A	■	R	O	D	S
D	A	S	H	■	R	E	M	■	D	E	S	K

Yesterday's answer 9-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Phillippe, 34; Amy Irving, 55; Joe Perry, 58; Jose Feliciano, 63

Happy Birthday: Once you clear your personal life of its accumulated clutter, you will feel eager to start new projects and meet new people. This is a cleansing year, one to rid you of what and whom you no longer need. You can finally create the atmosphere that will help you feel good and be more successful in the future. Your numbers are 6, 11, 18, 20, 30, 38, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't make assumptions or let your emotions lead you to distraction. If your personal problems interfere with your ability to perform your duties properly, you will have an even bigger problem. Keep a clear head. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take part in the social aspect of your work and enjoy the friendship being offered. The tighter you are with the people you work with and the better a job you do, the higher the position. Love can be enhanced with a mini trip for two. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Market yourself for success. Don't let someone who does a poor job or takes a lot of time off tempt you to join him or her. Hard work will pay off. A love interest will help you move ahead. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't give away a secret. If you overreact, overdo or overindulge, you'll pay dearly in the end. Offer compassion but don't take on responsibilities that aren't yours. Undertake a home improvement project. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Set up interviews or apply for a job that interests you or connect with a headhunter. Opportunities to make more money may develop through someone you used to work with or from a company that is in competition with the one you are currently working for. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Pay attention to your well-being and that of your close friends and family. Help those depending on you. Use your imagination and you will find ways to make your life better and improve your professional position. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take action and plan your day strategically. Emotions will be difficult to control and avoiding arguments will be important to your state of mind. If you venture out, someone new will capture your interest. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Talk your way through any difficult situation you face and you will come out on top. The silent treatment will only lead to someone's getting the wrong impression and assuming something that may not be true. Be a little different. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can listen but don't get sucked into doing something that sounds too good to be true. Do your research and you can avoid being swindled by someone out to get your money. Love is in the picture but be cautious. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Treat everyone with kindness and refrain from letting your personal opinions interfere with what you must do. Talks and traveling will not solve what needs to be dealt with. Listen to complaints but reserve judgment. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't give up something you want. Stand up for your rights and protect what's yours. There is money to be made but only if you are the one who sets the rules and makes the first move. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*fbfbf*): A partnership can form with someone who likes the way you think. Expand your interests and you will develop new friendships with people who can help you out. Knowledge and experience are being offered; listen and learn. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a flair for the arts, a way with words and a definite style. You are strong, relentless and eager to do well.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	2	8					
8				3		2	7	
4			1		2			
5		1		9	3			
	8		4	1		3		
		3	6		5	1		
	7			5	1		2	9
	1					8	3	
						5		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	4	9	6	8	2	3	1	5
5	2	1	9	3	4	6	8	7
8	3	6	5	1	7	2	4	9
1	7	3	8	2	5	9	6	4
2	6	4	3	7	9	1	5	8
9	8	5	1	4	6	7	3	2
4	9	8	2	6	3	5	7	1
6	1	2	7	5	8	4	9	3
3	5	7	4	9	1	8	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHOCOLATES ON YOUR PILLOW **Solution: 7 letters**

D	G	L	E	T	O	H	W	C	O	T	T	A	G	E
H	E	A	V	E	N	L	Y	M	R	E	H	T	N	A
A	S	P	E	C	I	A	L	O	E	T	L	O	I	C
S	T	C	P	E	Y	S	S	E	M	M	E	K	R	C
I	U	T	D	A	C	E	D	R	H	C	E	E	E	O
G	R	I	E	E	R	I	A	E	N	O	E	N	T	M
N	E	F	T	N	T	W	V	A	D	M	X	S	T	M
I	Y	E	L	E	D	R	G	R	S	U	U	P	U	O
F	R	N	T	A	T	A	O	U	E	O	L	A	B	D
I	U	E	A	N	V	M	N	P	E	S	E	C	E	A
C	X	B	E	A	A	O	I	T	M	S	D	K	N	T
A	U	I	R	N	B	E	R	N	(Y)	I	T	A	I	I
N	L	T	T	E	D	U	T	I	T	(A)	R	G	V	O
C	X	I	S	P	O	I	L	E	D	S	(T)	E	I	N
E	C	N	E	C	I	F	I	N	G	A	M	(S)	D	S

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Accommodations, Attendant, Benefit, Bonus, Buttering, Client, Cottage, Courteous, Deluxe, Divine, Extravagance, Flavor, Gesture, Gratitude, Guest, Heavenly, Hello, Hotel, Imported, Included, Luxury, Magnificence, Memento, Messy, Mints, Packages, Resort, Romantic, Service, Significance, Special, Spoiled, Stay, Suite, Token, Treat, Warmth, Wrapped

Yesterday's Answer: Wunderkind

Treasury 5 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 4520 Main

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

2000 sq.ft Warehouse for Rent in Gualo Rai. For more information please call 235-6527/28

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Navy Hill Apartments for rent. Spacious 2-bedroom units with beautiful view of Saipan. Featuring a private view balcony, fully furnished, FREE wireless DSL, 24-hour water, night-time security, typhoon shutters, laundry area, on-call maintenance staff & BACK-UP GENERATOR. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

EMPLOYMENT

Job opportunity: Marianas Management Corporation:
(3) Generator Technician
(3) Mechanic (3) Electrician
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Wanted: 1 Full-time Barista 18 y/o or above & IR/US citizen only bring your resume to the JAVA JOES CAFE-Dandan in person. No phone calls please.

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NOTICE

Benedicto S. Orencia (aka Jun)

Is NO longer associated with Auto Clinic Center (ACC) and has no authority to incur obligations or collect any accounts receivable or acting relating any jobs on behalf of ACC

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-330
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
DOMONIQUE S. PALACIOS, and GLORIA S. PALACIOS,	:	
Defendants.	:	

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 15, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 735, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 14, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, September 26, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 18th day of February, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Danilo T. Aguilar, F0198
Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Courth Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 234-8801
Fax (670) 234-1251
Attorney for Petitioner
Patrick Romolor Litulumar

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ADOPTION OF BIN YANG LITULUMAR, minor, By PATRICK ROMOLOR LITULUMAR, Petitioner	FCB CASE NO. 07-0275 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Notice is hereby given that Patrick Romolor Litulumar has filed a verified Petition for the adoption of a minor child in the Commonwealth Superior Court. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A hearing on the above-entitled matter will be held on October 2, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Superior Court, Susupe Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 6th day of September 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Superior Court

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-072-2006 (Amendment/Re-Announcement V)**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00 - $ 65,000.00**
Opening Date: **August 20, 2008, 2008** Closing Date: **October 11, 2008**
Location: **PSS, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a US accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Accounting or related field of study plus five (5) years work experience and must hold a valid licensure as a Certified Public Accountant; **OR** Master's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Accounting or related field of study plus five (5) years related work experience.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

Announcement No: **PSS-073-2006 (Amendment/Re-Announcement III)**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,00.00-$65,000.00**
Opening Date: **August 20, 2008** Closing Date: **October 11, 2008**
Location: **PSS – OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a US accredited college or university with a Master's degree in Education Administration or related areas, plus at least five (5) years of progressively responsible teaching or education administration experience.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Rodgers solid as Packers beat Vikings, 24-19

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Aaron Rodgers passed his first test as the Green Bay Packers' new quarterback, throwing for 178 yards and a touchdown and scoring on a game-clinching sneak in a 24-19 victory over the Minnesota Vikings on Monday night.

Rodgers, who was 18-of-22, got help from the Packers' special teams, running back Ryan Grant and safety Atari Bigby to beat a bitter division rival in his first regular-season start, which came in the wake of Brett Favre's offseason unretirement saga.

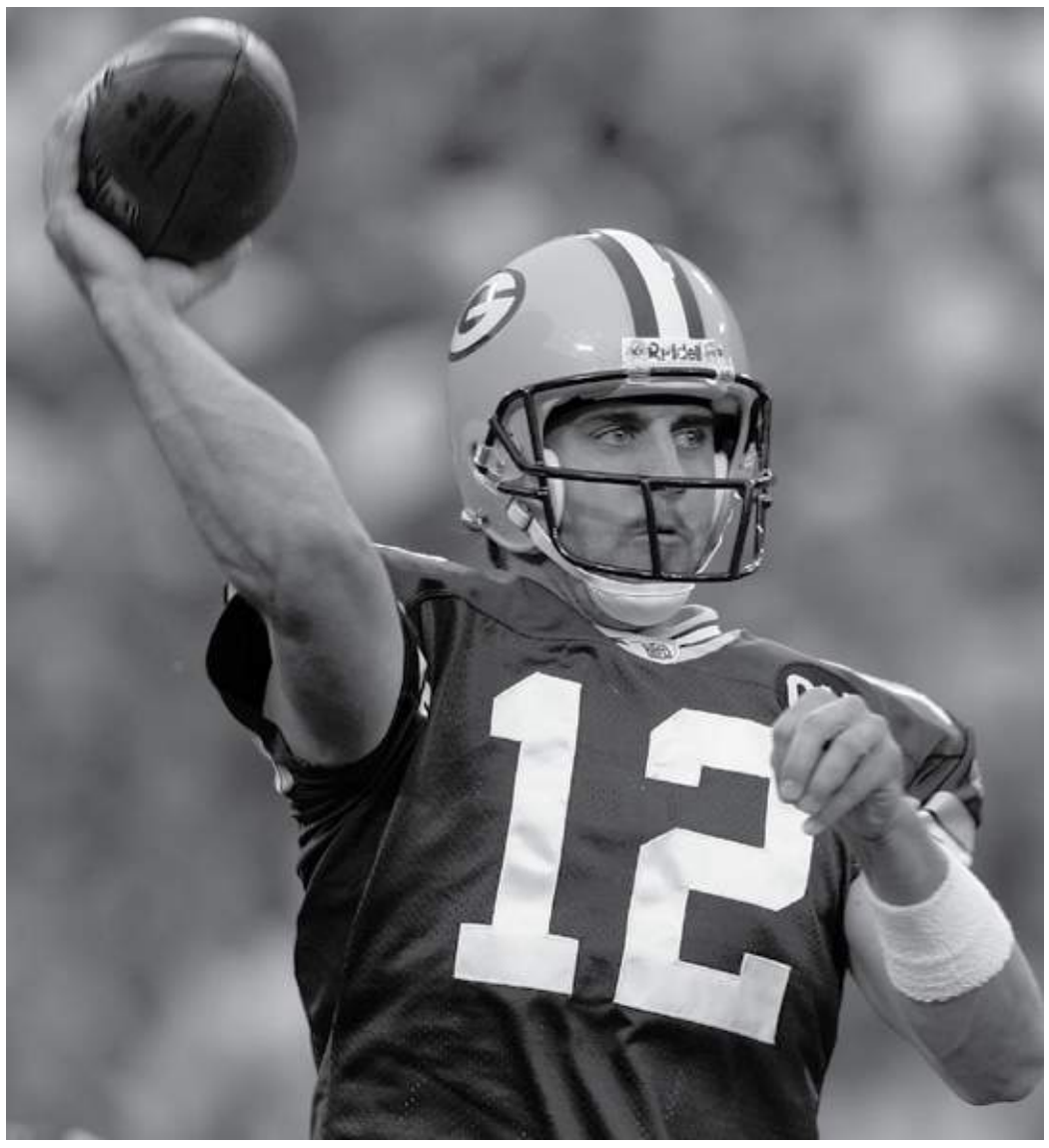
"I'm happy we won, and that he played well," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "That's what's important. I don't really get caught up in all the other things. And it's important for him not to, too."

Will Blackmon's 76-yard punt return gave Green Bay a 17-6 lead going into the fourth quarter.

Minnesota's Tarvaris Jackson answered with a 23-yard touchdown pass to Sidney Rice on fourth-and-1 to cut the Packers' lead to five with 14:12 remaining. But a 2-point conversion attempt failed when Jackson threw a pass slightly behind Rice in the back of the end zone.

Grant then broke free for a 57-yard run midway through the fourth quarter, giving the Packers (1-0) first-and-goal at the 2. After a penalty against the Vikings (0-1), Rodgers was stuffed on his first attempt at a quarterback sneak but plunged into the end zone on the second try.

Rodgers acknowledged he was happy to get his first start out of the way, but generally seemed to be enjoying life as the No. 1 quarterback.



AP

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers throws during the first half of an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings, Monday, Sept. 8, 2008, in Green Bay, Wis.

"Tonight, knowing I was going to get the first snap was pretty special," Rodgers said. "And running out of the tunnel to the electric atmosphere that we had, it was a pretty special night."

After scoring on the sneak, Rodgers emphatically spiked the ball and jumped into the stands for a "Lambeau Leap" as Green Bay took a 24-12 lead with 6:03 remaining.

"I've been dreaming about that for four years, to be honest," Rodgers said.

Jackson then led the Vikings on an 11-play drive that ended with a 3-yard touchdown run by Adrian Peterson, cutting the Packers' lead to 24-19 with 2:39 remaining.

An onside kick attempt by Ryan Longwell bounced out of bounds, giving the ball back to the Packers at their own 39. But the Packers had to punt, giving the ball back to Minnesota at its own 31 with 1:51 remaining.

But with the Vikings driving near midfield with under a minute remaining, Bigby stepped in front of Jackson's pass for an interception to put the game away.

Minnesota defensive end Jared Allen thought the Vikings missed an opportunity after getting to Rodgers and the Packers early.

"We were shutting him down," Allen said. "And then they hit a couple of big plays and they got a momentum swing."

Getting his first start that counts in a heated division rivalry—one that became even more intense when the Packers accused the Vikings of tampering with the then-retired Favre in the offseason, a charge that was dismissed by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell—Rodgers didn't provide the offensive feast-or-famine performance that had become Favre's trademark.

But Rodgers was effective. And, at times, pretty darn entertaining.

Most important, he walked off the field a winner for a team and fan base that had been cheering the same starting quarterback since 1992 and watched in disbelief as an ugly divorce between Favre and the Packers played out in training camp.

Now Favre is playing for the New York Jets and Rodgers' place as the new leader of the Pack appears to be secure, at least for a week.

Minnesota got a solid performance from Peterson, who ran for 103 yards and a touchdown. But the Vikings' own quarterback questions, however, remain unanswered.

Jackson, who hadn't played since after injuring his knee in an Aug. 16 preseason game against Baltimore, was 2-of-7 for 16 yards in a rough first half.

He seemed to find his rhythm in the second half, finishing 16-of-35 for 178 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

Jackson generally was outplayed by Rodgers, who shrugged off a shaky, penalty-filled start to the game to heave a 56-yard pass to Greg Jennings on the first play of the Packers' third possession to set up first-and-goal.

Rodgers then found himself under pressure from Vikings linebacker E.J. Henderson on third-and-goal. Dancing to avoid the rush, Rodgers fired an off-balance rocket through air-tight coverage to fullback Korey Hall for a touchdown.

Broncos 41, Raiders 14

At Oakland, California, Jay Cutler threw for 300 yards with long touchdown passes to rookie Eddie Royal and Darrell Jackson that helped Denver beat up on their American Football Conference West rivals in a victory over Oakland.

Cutler completed 16 of 24 passes and confidently picked apart Oakland's rebuilt defense in a dominating season-opening performance despite missing suspended big-play receiver Brandon Marshall.

The Raiders lost their sixth straight season opener and only avoided their third straight shutout on Monday Night Football when JaMarcus Russell threw two meaningless fourth-quarter touchdown passes.

Royal, a second-round draft pick out of Virginia Tech, caught nine passes for 146 yards.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady out for season with knee injury

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—The New England Patriots have come back from injuries before, winning three Super Bowls and reaching a fourth despite losing Rodney Harrison, Richard Seymour, Junior Seau and Drew Bledsoe. Now they will try to do it without Tom Brady.

The 2007 NFL Most Valuable Player will miss the entire '08 season with a left knee injury that needs surgery, the team said Monday. That leaves the Patriots without one of the game's great quarterbacks and severely damages their hopes of a return trip to the Super Bowl.

Coach Bill Belichick would not say what the injury is, but the play, Brady's reaction and the prognosis all point toward a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

"As a team we all just have to do our jobs. That really doesn't change," Belichick said Monday, a day after Brady's knee collapsed under him when he was hit by Chiefs safety Bernard Pollard in a 17-10 victory over Kansas City. "He played one position, he played it very well. We have somebody else playing that position now."

The Patriots issued a one-paragraph statement that the two-time Super Bowl MVP will have surgery and be placed on injured reserve. That leaves them in the hands of a backup who's barely been tested—in part because of Brady's 128-game starting streak that was the third-longest for a quarterback in NFL history.

Matt Cassel, who guided New England to its 20th consecutive regular-season victory after Brady was hurt, will start Sunday at the New York Jets. It will be the first meaningful start since high school for Cassel, who backed up Heisman Trophy winners Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart at Southern Cal and spent the last three years holding a clipboard for Brady.

"I'm not trying to be Tom Brady. I'm just trying to be Matt Cassel," he said when subbing for Brady on his regular weekly radio show. "I don't know where that's going to take us."

Brady took the Patriots to three NFL titles since 2001 and led them to a perfect record in the regular season last year before a loss in the Super Bowl to the New York Giants deprived them of a fourth championship and an unprecedented 19-0 season. They had been favored to return—before Brady's injury.

"We're not going to tank it the rest of the season. That's not going to happen," defensive lineman Richard Seymour said in a somber and nearly empty Patriots locker room. Seymour was across from where Brady's locker remained stocked with equipment and personal items. "There's always a way to win. We're not going to have a lot of excuses about it."

Even without Brady, the Patriots remain a team stocked with veterans in a mediocre division, and with one of the most successful coaches in NFL history.

"The leadership on this team will take care of itself," offensive lineman Matt Light said. "I expect (Cassel) to do his job, and that's the same thing he expects from each one of us. There's nobody on this team that we don't have confidence in. You can't have a better mentor than Tom Brady."

The Patriots have just two quarterbacks on the roster: Cassel and rookie Kevin O'Connell. Matt Gutierrez, who signed as an undrafted free agent before the 2007 season and has thrown one career pass, was released in the final cutdowns before the season.

But Belichick denied media reports that out-of-work quarterbacks Chris Simms and Tim Rattay were headed to Foxborough to take physicals or to audition.

"In spite of what some people are putting out there, we haven't worked out anybody," he said. "We had a lot of people call us, I can tell you that."

For now, Cassel is his starter.

"I'm happy for his opportunity to have a chance to play," said Leinart, who, ironically, is now a backup with the Arizona Cardinals. "I'm bummed for Tom. You just hope he can heal as well as he can and get back out there as soon as he can. But Matt will step up. I think he'll be all right."

Pollard, who apologized to Brady immediately after the play, said Monday that it was a normal play and prayed for Brady's speedy recovery.

"I can't change what happened," he said. "As soon as the play happened, I said, `Oh, man.' When I heard him scream, I knew it was serious."

While not calling Pollard's play dirty, Belichick said his players are taught to hit quarterbacks between the knees and shoulders. Patriots defensive lineman Vince Wilfork complained that he was penalized and fined for a hit similar to Pollard's, but league spokesman Greg Aiello said supervisor of officials Mike Pereira determined it was legal.

"It is not a foul because the defensive player was coming off and affected by a block by the offense," Aiello said.

A former fourth-stringer who was the 199th overall selection in the 2000 draft, Brady himself took over at quarterback when Bledsoe sustained a life-threatening chest injury in a 2001 game against the New York Jets. Brady led the Patriots to their first NFL title that year, another in 2003 and another in 2004.

Belichick said comparing this season to 2001 was like comparing "apples to grapefruit."

But Patriots players cited that experience as proof they could do it again.

"Everybody here understands that things like this happen; they've happened before," Light said. "I feel good about this football team."

Brady missed the entire preseason with an unspecified foot injury, then left the season opener 7:33 into the first quarter. After being tended to on the field, Brady walked off, limping, between two trainers. He went to the locker room and wasn't seen on the sideline again.

"We feel badly for Tom about the injury," Belichick said Monday. "You hate to see anyone go down. No one has worked harder or done more for this team than Tom has."

Lester strikes out 9, Bay homers in 3-0 win over Rays

BOSTON (AP)—Jon Lester pitched into the eighth inning, Jason Bay homered in a three-run first and the surging Boston Red Sox beat the Tampa Bay Rays 3-0 on Monday to move within a half-game of the struggling American League East leaders.

Playing before their 456th straight regular-season sellout crowd, a new major league record, the Red Sox closed within a half-game of the division lead for the first time since July 23.

Boston improved to 6-1 in its last seven games while Tampa Bay is 1-6 in that same stretch after losing its fourth straight. The Rays were shut out for the second consecutive day for the first time this year, having lost 1-0 at Toronto on Sunday. They also dropped to 0-7 at Fenway Park.

Lester (14-5) matched his season high with nine strikeouts, accomplished in his no-hitter against Kansas City on May 19. He allowed six hits and three walks in 7 2-3 innings.

Boston leads the majors with 14 shutouts.

Angels 12, Yankees 1

At Anaheim, California, Ivan Rodriguez and Torii Hunter got into a bench-clearing fight in the sixth inning, when Los Angeles scored six runs on the way to a win that reduced its magic number to two for clinching the AL West title.

Brandon Wood hit two homers, and Vladimir Guerrero and Sean Rodriguez also connected for the Angels, who own the best record in baseball at 87-56.

The Angels are on track to wrap up their fourth division crown in five seasons by the earliest date in franchise history. They can do it Tuesday night with another win over the Yankees and a Texas loss at Seattle.

Jon Garland (13-8) retired 12 in a row at one point and allowed one run and six hits in seven innings, striking out four and walking two.

Wood's third homer of the season broke a 1-all tie in the third when he hit an 0-1 pitch from Carl Pavano (2-1) into the visitors' bullpen. Pavano gave up five runs and six hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Tigers 14, Athletics 8

At Detroit, Gary Sheffield's second home run of the night—a grand slam—was the 250,000th homer in major league history and it helped Detroit beat Oakland.

Sheffield drove in five runs, including his 13th career slam. Magglio Ordonez, Miguel Cabrera and Mike Hessman also went deep for the Tigers, who won their third straight.

Oakland has lost five of seven.

Both starting pitchers struggled. Zach Miner of the Tigers gave up eight runs and 11 hits in 4 1-3 innings, and rookie Gio Gonzalez (1-4) allowed a career-high nine runs—eight earned—and five hits in 1 2-3 innings.

Orioles 14, Indians 3

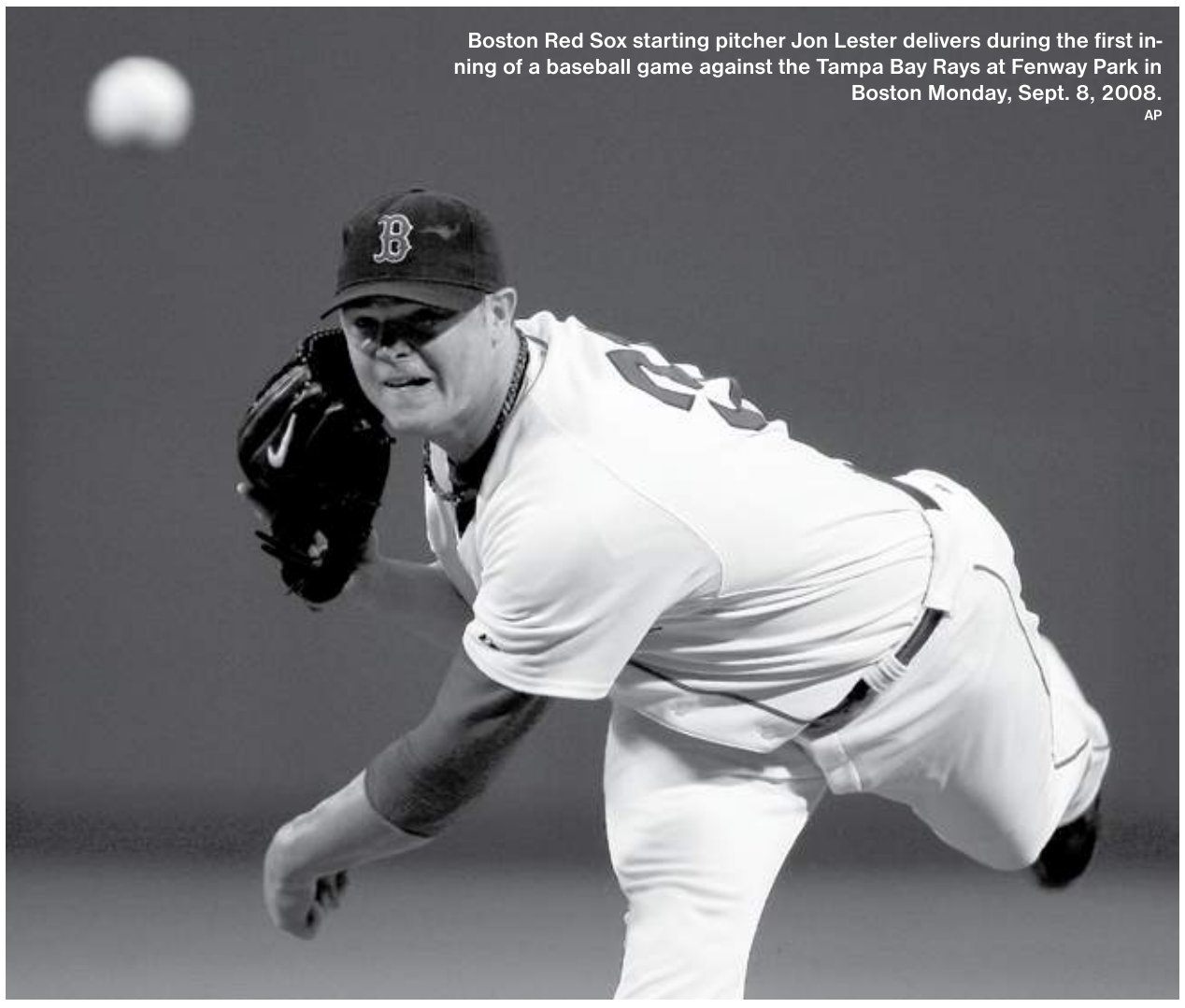
At Baltimore, Aubrey Huff hit a grand slam to cap a seven-run sixth inning and Baltimore ended an eight-game losing streak by defeating Cleveland.

Luke Scott, Adam Jones and Ramon Hernandez also homered for the Orioles, who had lost 13 of 14. Jones ended an 0-for-16 skid with three hits and four RBIs.

Asdrubal Cabrera went 3-for-3 and drove in two runs for the Indians, and Choo Shin-soo had two hits to extend his hitting streak to 12 games. Choo has reached safely in 28 straight games since Aug. 25.

Orioles starter Garrett Olson (9-7) allowed three runs and eight hits in six innings. The left-hander was 0-2 with an 11.81 ERA in his previous four starts.

Fausto Carmona (8-6) took the loss. Cleveland has allowed 11 grand slams this season, a club record and the most in the majors.



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Jon Lester delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays at Fenway Park in Boston Monday, Sept. 8, 2008. AP

Phillies 8, Marlins 6

At Philadelphia, Jayson Werth hit a three-run homer, Jimmy Rollins had three hits and three steals as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Florida Marlins.

The Phillies closed within 1 1/2 games of the National League East-leading New York Mets. They remain two behind in the loss column.

Joe Blanton (2-0) pitched five shaky innings to earn his first win since Aug. 2. Blanton allowed four runs and five hits in his 10th start since Philadelphia acquired him from Oakland.

Brad Lidge finished for his 35th save in as many chances. Lidge put the tying runs on base, before escaping the jam by striking out Wes Helms and Jorge Cantu to end it.

Mike Jacobs also hit a two-run homer for Florida, his 31st.

The Phillies scored five runs off starter Anibal Sanchez (2-4) in the first two innings.

Reds 5, Brewers 4

At Milwaukee, Jeff Keppinger's double capped a three-run, ninth-inning rally off Milwaukee closer Salomon Torres and Cincinnati beat the reeling Brewers.

With the loss, the Brewers' lead in the NL wild-card race shrunk to three games over the Phillies with 18 games left. The Brewers and Phillies play a key four-game series beginning Thursday in Philadelphia.

Jared Burton (5-1) pitched a scoreless eighth for the victory. Francisco Cordero pitched the ninth for his 28th save in 34 chances.

Torres (6-5) entered the game with Milwaukee leading 4-2, but allowed consecutive singles to Jay Bruce and Wilkin Castillo, and a walk to Chris Dickerson to load the bases with no outs.

Corey Patterson's infield single pulled the Reds to 4-3. Keppinger then hit a shot past left fielder Ryan Braun to the base of the wall, scoring Castillo and Dickerson to give the Reds the lead for good.

Astros 3, Pirates 2

At Houston, pinch-hitter Mark Saccomanno homered on the first pitch he saw in the major leagues to help the surging Houston beat Pittsburgh.

Saccomanno hit a solo shot in the fifth inning, becoming the fourth Houston player to homer in his first big league plate appearance. The Astros have won three straight and 11 of 12 to move 10 games over .500 for the first time this season.

Called up from the minors earlier in the day to help fill in for injured third baseman Ty Wigginton, Saccomanno batted for pitcher Alberto Arias (1-0) in a scoreless game and connected off Ian Snell (6-11).

Padres 4, Dodgers 0

At San Diego, Adrian Gonzalez hit a two-run homer off former teammate Greg Maddux and the last-place Padres snapped NL West leader Los Angeles' eight-game winning streak.

Cha Seung Baek combined with two relievers to four-hit the Dodgers, who have a 1 1/2-game lead over Arizona. Los Angeles leapfrogged Arizona into the division lead with a three-game weekend sweep at Dodger Stadium.

Andre Ethier had three of the Dodgers' hits, including two doubles.

While Maddux dropped to 1-3 with the Dodgers, Baek (5-9) got enough run support to win at home for the first time this season. He allowed three hits in seven innings.

Giants 6, Diamondbacks 2

At San Francisco, Tim Lincecum struck out nine, Bengie Molina hit a three-run homer and San Francisco sent slumping Arizona to its fourth straight defeat.

Lincecum (16-3) had a shot at a career complete game but loaded the bases with one out in the ninth, giving way to Alex Hinshaw to a standing ovation following his 127-pitch gem. Lincecum's 8 1-3 innings were a career best.

Lincecum lowered his NL-leading ERA from 2.60 to 2.54.

The Diamondbacks have lost seven of nine and remained 1 1/2 behind the Dodgers in the NL West.

The Giants got four straight hits off Arizona starter Yusmeiro Petit (3-5) to start their five-run third, including Molina's 12th home run and an RBI single by Pablo Sandoval that broke a scoreless tie.

Blazers' Greg Oden sets goal to win ROY award

RYE BROOK, N.Y. (AP)—He was drafted more than 14 months ago, and even then he looked too old to be a first-year player, so it's easy to forget that Greg Oden is technically a rookie.

Sidelined all season after knee surgery, the top pick in the 2007 draft never got to compete with No. 2 selection Kevin Durant for the Rookie of the Year award. So he's eligible to win it this year, and that's one of his goals.

"I hope so," Oden said Thursday. "I'm working for it."

The Portland center definitely feels like a newcomer this week, joining a number of first-year players in the league's rookie transition program, a four-day event where players are counseled on issues they will face on and off the court.

Players are given three years to complete the program, in case they are unavailable in the summer before they enter the NBA. Oden couldn't come last year because it started just days after he had microfracture surgery on his right knee.

He finally began taking part in 5-on-5 drills last week, playing twice with his Trail Blazers teammates, and seemed pleased with his progress.

"When I first came back to Portland, I came back about three weeks ago, and I was a little bit nervous getting in there and starting working out with the guys," Oden said. "I was nervous about how I was going to play, but the more I got to playing, it's just about going out there and playing the game I love, so it's not really anything to be nervous about."

For now, he doesn't think the Blazers will let him do too much more.

"I don't think they're going to do that until the season starts," he said. "They're trying to make sure nothing happens, so keeping me on a tight rope right now."

Oden has already experienced plenty in the NBA, traveling with the Blazers on three long road trips last season. He said he's learned much more in the transition program, such as the services provided by the players' association and some financial lessons.

"I really don't know everything that went on, so I got to see some things," Oden said. "I know a couple of things that go on, but to really hear about it and all the situations while being here is good for me."

Oden and the rest of the participants saw a quick lesson in NBA discipline Wednesday when former Kansas stars Mario Chalmers and Darrell Arthur were sent home on the first day of the program for violating unspecified league rules.

Mike Bantom, the NBA's senior vice president of player development, said young players are going to make mistakes, which is why there is such a focus on finances. Even a first-round pick like Oden is only guaranteed a two-year contract at the start of his career, so players are cautioned not to blow it all too quickly.

"Be accountable for your own finances, don't rely on an agent or any one person to manage your money, because ultimately it's going to be your responsibility," Bantom said. "It's going to be your issue and you can't say, 'Well, I left it up to him.'"

Players also got a lecture Thursday from former Cavaliers and Hornets coach Paul Silas, who while reminding them of the challenges rookies face pointed out that he didn't even start Baron Davis, then a No. 3 overall pick, in Charlotte because he didn't think the point guard came into the league with a good enough shot.

Oden, growing out his beard and looking far older than his 20 years, is already aware there are no guarantees. Still, he won't have to worry about playing time once he's fully recovered.

"It took a couple of days, but it felt good," he said of facing live competition again. "The second day it felt a lot better, but I'm still not quite back yet."

CWGA September ace this Saturday

The CNMI Women's Golf Association September Ace of the Month Tournament will be held this Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

According to the club's secretary Lorraine Babauta, show time is set at 11:30am and tee time is scheduled an hour later at 12:30pm.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity. ***(CWGA)***

Rain or Shine confident of turning fortunes around

MANILA, Philippines—Rain or Shine top honchos Terry Que and Raymund Yu are pretty confident this coming season will be different from the two previous ones.

Both believe the franchise, a perennial tail-ender the past four conferences, now has the tools to compete against the league's elite.

In its desire to make a statement this coming 2008-09 season, Rain or Shine turned down several tempting offers to trade its draft rights on the No.1 pick that enabled them to net Gabe Norwood, a member of Team Pilipinas that finished ninth in the FIBA-Asia Olympic Qualifier last year in Tokushima, Japan.

Rain or Shine coach Caloy Garcia said the arrival of Norwood brings new hope for the team that clearly lacks a certified leader to keep the unit together.

"Improvement is a must," conceded Yu after PBA commissioner Renauld "Sonny" Barrios announced Rain or Shine's No.1 pick overall during the Annual Draft.

"Yung positions na mahina kami napunan na. So we're hopeful we've already got a competitive lineup," Que proclaimed.

As if to show they mean business, the three-year old expansion club traded 6-foot-7 Joe Devance – the team's No.1 pick overall the previous year – and two future draft rights to Alaska for heady Fil-Am guard Solomon Mercado and veteran forward Eddie Laure.

"I'm bringing in my work ethic and hopefully I can help the team get wins," said Norwood, a 23-year-old former George Mason U stalwart.

Whether Norwood is up to the task will be in focus when the league holds its annual Pre-Season Tournament beginning next week.

The Elasto Painters are among the seven teams seeing action in the off-season event set Sept. 15-28 and to be played in non-traditional playing venues.

Reigning Philippine Cup champion Sta. Lucia, Fiesta Conference runner-up Air21 and Talk N Text are skipping the two-week tournament owing to the teams' previous commitments outside the country. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

FEDERER

From Page 28

like in my first final," Federer said during a prematch TV interview.

Perhaps he was trying to plant doubt in Murray's head. The youngster was standing around the corner, waiting to walk out onto the court, probably already thinking about what it would feel like to be on that stage, with those stakes, against that opponent.

With his bushy hair peeking out from under his gray-and-white baseball cap, unshaven whiskers on his face, and that loping gait, Murray looks much like the college student he otherwise might be if not so talented at tennis.

Federer, coincidentally, was the same age when he played in his first Grand Slam final, back in 2003 at Wimbledon. Except Federer won that match against Mark Philippoussis in straight sets, and has kept winning major championship matches against everyone except a certain Spaniard: Federer is 2-4 against Nadal in major finals, 13-0 against anyone else.

Indeed, Murray can consider himself in good company. Federer's other four finals at Flushing Meadows came against men who have won Grand Slam titles: Lleyton Hewitt, Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick and Novak Djokovic.

"I'm sure we're going to see much more of Andy in the future," said the second-seeded Federer.

He accumulated a 36-16 advantage in winners, a 7-2 count in breaks of serve, and won the point on 31 of 44 trips to the net. His volleying might have been helped by spending so much time at the net while winning a gold medal in doubles at the Beijing Olympics.

Murray—whose ranking rises to No. 4—stood about 10 feet behind the baseline to return serves, exactly the way he did against Nadal in their two-day, rain-interrupted semifinal. And Murray displayed flashes of the get-to-every-ball defense he used against Nadal, including one pretty flick of a lob by Federer with his back to the net.

But Federer, who might have benefited from an extra day to rest because his semifinal wasn't affected by Tropical Storm Hanna, was simply too much for Murray.

Too good.

Too smart.

Too experienced.

Too, well, Federeresque.

At only one juncture did Murray throw a scare into Federer, taking 11 of 12 points to go from 2-0 down in the second set to 2-all and love-40 on Federer's serve.

Federer saved the first break point, and on the second, a 14-stroke rally ended with Murray missing a backhand. TV replays, though, showed one of Federer's shots should have been called out - and had it been, Murray would have led 3-2.

"Not necessarily would have won the match or anything, but it would have given me a bit of confidence," Murray said.

But there was no call there, and no reprieve, because Federer stayed steady and held serve.

"That was key," said Federer, the only man in tennis history to win five consecutive titles at two major tournaments. "After that, I began to play freely, the way I usually do."

In the next game, Murray began clutching at his right knee and looking up at his substantial support group in the stands, a gathering that included his mother, two coaches and two trainers.

Murray, though, said the knee had no bearing on the outcome.

"He made very few mistakes," Murray said. "The times I played him before, he had given me a few free points."

Federer closed the second set on a 10-stroke point that was a thing of beauty. First, Federer extended the point with some superb court coverage, and then—shifting from defense to offense in a blink—he ended it with a forehand passing winner.

Federer turned to his guest box—which included his pal, Vogue Editor-in-Chief Anna Wintour - and bellowed, punching down with his right fist.

This is how he is supposed to play.

This is how these Grand Slam finals are supposed to go.

Not his lopsided loss to Nadal on clay at Roland Garros. Or his heartbreakingly narrow loss to Nadal—9-7 in the fifth set in fading light—on grass at the All England Club, denying Federer a sixth straight title there. Those were two of Federer's 12 losses by August in 2008, more than he had in any entire season from 2004-07. He also arrived in New York with only two titles from minor events in a year that began with a bout of mononucleosis.

Only when Federer served for the match at 5-1 in the third set, and was broken, did he show a modicum of mediocrity Monday.

It merely delayed the inevitable.

Federer broke right back to end things, then rolled around with glee on the blue court. Instead of heading into the off-season wondering what went wrong, the 27-year-old Federer can look ahead with optimism.

When the men met at the net, Murray felt compelled to share a thought with Federer.

"I told him that he had, you know, a phenomenal year," Murray said, "regardless of what anyone said."

NMC

From Page 28

the entire fourth period.

NMC's bench finished the job which Wallace and Villacrusis started, piling in more points to help the pennant champion's cause.

The Lawmakers had their worst scoring period in the fourth quarter, making only seven points.

Wallace finished with 20 markers, while the rest of NMC's bench totaled 22 points.

The Lawmakers played with only six players against NMC. They drew double figures from three players, but these were not enough to prevent them from dropping to the losers' bracket.

Ernest Duenas led the Lawmakers with 19 points, Joe Punzalan had 16, and Dave Apatang added 12.

Legislature now has to win against Correction to avoid early elimination in the double-round robin playoffs.

NMC 82 – Villacrusis 21, Wallace 20, Manibusan 8, Diaz 8, Villagomez 6, Tumaquip 4, Tomokane 4, Macduff 4, Buniag 2, Roberto 2, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Legislature 68 – E. Duenas 19, Punzalan 16, Apatang 12, R. Duenas 9, Guerrero 8, Guinto 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-19, 34-27, 61-46, 82-68.

Referees: Gilbert Espinosa and Connie Camacho.

CPA

From Page 28

NMC's Mark Wallace, and DCCA's Elias Rangamar.

Borja averaged 26.5 markers per match and played in 10 games, earning 265 points.

Wallace suited up for NMC in only seven games but emerged as the fourth-best scorer in the league with an average of 26.5 pints per game. He tallied 185 points in the regular season.

Rangamar played nine games for DCCA and scored a total of 205 points for an average of 22.8 points per match.

Completing the Top 15 were Aguaguat's Ryan Sablan (21.6ppg), Bank of Guam's James Villacrusis (21.3ppg), Corrections' Luis Iguel (19.6ppg), NMC's Jose Tumaquip (19ppg), Corrections' Jeff Quitugua (18.6ppg), Autonomous' Steve Rasa (18.4ppg), PTI's Edsel Mendoza (18.2ppg) and Elmer Esdrelon (16.1pg), Bank of Guam's Jason Taisacan (16ppg), and Legislature's Ray Duenas (14.5ppg).

Sablan played only seven games with Aguguat and earned 151 points, while Villacrusis scored 213 markers in 10 games for BOG.

Teammates Iguel and Quitugua tallied 196 and 186 points, respectively, in 10 games with Corrections, while Tumaquip collected 152 markers in eight matches for NMC.

Rasa, ATM's lone bet in the scoring race, had 129 points in seven games, while PTI's Mendoza and Esdrelon earned 182 and 129 markers, respectively. Mendoza played 10 games for PTI, while Esdrelon saw action in eight.

Taisacan missed only one game for Bank of Guam in the regular season and collected 160 points, while Duenas also played 10 games for the Lawmakers and tallied 145 markers.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	85	57	.599	–
Boston	85	58	.594	1/2
Toronto	76	66	.535	9
New York	76	68	.528	10
Baltimore	64	78	.451	21

Central Division

Chicago	80	62	.563	–
Minnesota	78	65	.545	2 1/2
Detroit	70	74	.486	11
Cleveland	69	73	.486	11
Kansas City	61	81	.430	19

West Division

Los Angeles	87	56	.608	–
Texas	70	74	.486	17 1/2
Oakland	65	78	.455	22
Seattle	56	86	.394	30 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	80	63	.559	–
Philadelphia	79	65	.549	1 1/2
Florida	72	72	.500	8 1/2
Atlanta	62	82	.431	18 1/2
Washington	56	88	.389	24 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	86	57	.601	–
Milwaukee	82	62	.569	4 1/2
St. Louis	77	66	.538	9
Houston	77	67	.535	9 1/2
Cincinnati	65	79	.451	21 1/2
Pittsburgh	60	83	.420	26

West Division

Los Angeles	73	71	.507	–
Arizona	71	72	.497	1 1/2
Colorado	67	77	.465	6
San Francisco	63	80	.441	9 1/2
San Diego	56	88	.389	17

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 8, Florida 6
Cincinnati 5, Milwaukee 4
Houston 3, Pittsburgh 2
San Diego 4, L.A. Dodgers 0
San Francisco 6, Arizona 2
Boston 3, Tampa Bay 0
Detroit 14, Oakland 8
Baltimore 14, Cleveland 3
Toronto at Chicago White Sox, ppd., rain
L.A. Angels 12, N.Y. Yankees 1

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	20	14
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	34	10
New England	1	0	0	1.000	17	10
Miami	0	1	0	.000	14	20

South

Tennessee	1	0	0	1.000	17	10
Houston	0	1	0	.000	17	38
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	13	29
Jacksonville	0	1	0	.000	10	17

North

Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	17	10
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	38	17
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	10	17
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	10	28

West

Denver	1	0	0	1.000	41	14
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	10	17
Oakland	0	1	0	.000	14	41
San Diego	0	1	0	.000	24	26

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	1.000	16	7
Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	28	10
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	38	3
Washington	0	1	0	.000	7	16

South

New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	24	20
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	34	21
Carolina	1	0	0	1.000	26	24
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.000	20	24

North

Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	24	19
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	29	13
Detroit	0	1	0	.000	21	34
Minnesota	0	1	0	.000	19	24

West

Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	23	13
San Francisco	0	1	0	.000	13	23
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	10	34
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	3	38

Yesterday's Games

Green Bay 24, Minnesota 19
Denver 41, Oakland 14

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	4	0
G-Rollers I	2	0
San Antonio Sixers	2	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	2	1
Kontenders	2	2
G-Stars	1	2
Suns	0	2
C.K. Saints	0	2
G-Rollers II	0	4

Cook Islands to host series of meetings

By ROSELYN B.MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Amendments to the Pacific Games Council Charter will be decided later this month when the Cook Islands host five meetings in Rarotonga.

Changes in the PGC Charter, particularly those that deal with eligibility rules, will be decided at the Executive Board Meeting on Sept. 21. The four other meetings are for chef de Mission and PGC sports committee (Sept. 19), PGAs marketing (Sept. 20), and PGC general assembly (Sept. 22).

The PGC Executive Board will have the final say on the recommendations of the PGC Charter Review Committee, which was formed last year to deliberate on the changes suggested by several PGAs.

Suggestions of the various PGAs regarding the

White

eligibility rules were best reflected on the recommended revised Charter submitted by Andrew Minogue of Samoa.

Contents of Article 25, Section D which discusses citizenship and residency conditions for inclusion in a team selected by the PGA to represent its country/territory are as follows: "Be either a citizen of the country/territory the athlete is to represent at the Games and a resident of that country/territory for a period of not less than five years (cumulatively, whether consecutive or not); or, if not a citizen of the country/territory the athlete is to represent, be a resident of the country/territory for a consecutive period of five years up to and including the deadline for individual entries"; and "for the avoidance of doubt the temporary absence of an athlete from the country/territory of their citizenship (or, in the case of expatriates, temporary absence from the country/territory of their residence) for purposes such as education and sports training, military service and health care and other legitimate absences of a like kind shall be considered as residency."

The group was chaired by David Tupou of Tonga and voted, 3-2, in favor of allowing expatriates and those who meet the residency requirement to compete in the 2009 South Pacific Mini Games in the Cook Islands.

Michael A. White, president of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association and member of the PGC Charter Review Committee, is hoping that the board will adopt their recommendations and revert to the old eligibility rules implemented during the Mini Games in Palau in 2005 and before the SPG in Samoa last year.

Last year, the CNMI had a lean delegation to Samoa sending only athletes in the beach volleyball and athletics competitions. Other CNMI sports federations had shown interests in joining the Samoa Games, but had athletes who are non-U.S. citizens thus were ineligible for the quadrennial meet.

Kana Aikawa of tennis was among the long-time CNMI residents who failed to qualify for the Samoa Games. Aikawa holds Japanese and Canadian passports, but had represented the Commonwealth in the Palau Mini Games and in the Micronesian Games which Saipan hosted in 2006.

Next year, the CNMI will not be affected by the eligibility rules for the Mini Games as it will be skipping the multi-sports event in Rarotonga. But in 2011, long-time residents of the Commonwealth may miss the SPG in New Caledonia if the PGC Executive Board decides to keep the current eligibility rules.

Sixers smother hapless G-Rollers II

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The San Antonio Sixers were simply too much for G-Rollers II as shown in the former's 64-28 victory in the Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win improved the Sixers' record to 2-0 putting them in a tie for second place with G-Rollers I.

G-Rollers II remained winless in four games.

There was no way the G-Rollers II could snap their losing skid against the Sixers, as the former's total points were even lesser than the latter's first-half output.

The Sixers scored 29 markers in the first half with Joe Ada anchoring the team's attack to give San Antonio a 29-15 halftime lead.

Ernest Duenas, who is playing in his last season in the 18-under caging, picked up where Ada left off in the second half, drilling nine of his 11 points in the last 20 minutes of the game.

The Sixers bench also stepped up in the second half, combining for 11 points to help San Antonio rout the hapless G-Rollers II.

The G-Rollers II had only five of their 12-man roster contributing on offense. Jerry Mabini was the lone double figure scorer for the Garapan-based squad with 11. G-Rollers II's second best scorer—Mike Manglona—had only six markers.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
The San Antonio Sixers' Ernest Duenas goes for a layup in this file photo taken in last year's Rotary caging. Duenas scored 11 points in the Sixers 64-28 demolition of the G-Rollers II Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ada paced the Sixers, who won their debut against the G-Stars, with 16 points, while Matt Duenas and Rodney Salas chipped in eight apiece. Five Sixers players tallied 19 points.

Meawhile, defending champion CNMI Junior Nationals will go for their third straight win against the Chalan Kanoa Saints tonight.

The Junior Nationals dropped their first match against the Southern Sonics during the league's opening game, but won their next two, beating the G-Rollers II and the Kontenders.

The Saints lost in their first two games against the G-Stars and the Sonics, and are expected to have a tough time in their bid to enter the win column.

Last night's match had the G-Stars squaring off with the Suns. The G-Stars currently hold a 1-2 record, while the Suns are winless in two matches going into Tuesday night's game.

Sixers 64 – Ada 16, E. Duenas 12, M. Duenas 8, Salas 8, R. Duenas 6, Benavente 2, Agtarap 2, C. Duenas 2.

G-Rollers II 28– Mabini 11, M. Manglona 6, Norita 4, Babauta 3, E. Manglona 2, Santos 5.

Scoring by halves: 29-15, 64-28.

Homerun derby to spice up Budweiser softball qualifier

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Sluggers will have their day under the sun this coming weekend.

Organizers have put up the homerun derby as a side event for the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament to be held at the Capitol Hill Ball Field on Sept. 13 and 14.

With the $10 entry fee, the Top 3 finishers will win the following reasonable prizes: one case of beer and a beach chair for first place; beach chair for second place; and a shirt and a hat for third place.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
The 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament this coming weekend will feature a homerun derby.

In related news, a meeting for teams taking part in the King and Queen of the Diamonds will be held this Thursday, Sept. 11, starting 7pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room. Teams are expected to pay the entry fee of $150 during the meeting.

It will be the third qualifying tournament for the annual event with the winner of the two-day event earning a ticket to the championship round next month.

Two other teams, Shell Marianas and Natibu, have already qualified for the championship round.

The first place team after the championship round will gain the right to represent the CNMI in Palau, which hosted the first edition in 2005 of the Budweiser of the Diamonds Tournament of champions, which was won by the CNMI's No Ka Oi.

CNMI hosted the 2006 event and Guam in 2007.

Futsal to kick off women's soccer season

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

A futsal tournament will kick-off the 2008 season of women's soccer from Oct. 11 to Dec. 6.

The sponsoring Northern Marianas Islands Football Association Women's Committee said a boot camp would be held on Sept. 27 and Oct. 4 from 8:30am to 11:30am at the Navy Hill field to open up the futsal tournament, which is actually indoor soccer.

NMIFA said this is also known as the "five aside" and it demands quick reflexes, fast thinking, and accurate ball control.

It is also referred to as the "great skill developer."

It is played on a basketball style court, with no walls and a low bouncing ball, requiring players to use their skill rather than the ball's bounce to propel it.

Nick Swaim, the CNMI National Football coach, explains, "Futsal is an excellent method for building skills and it requires very little specialized equipment.

"Futsal is an important aspect of both the Women's and Men's national team training."

Lindsay Davis, chairman of NMIFA Woman's Committee, encourages, "all women who are interested in football or futsal, physical fitness, and camaraderie with other women through team sports should come and join the league".

The boot camp is designed to help players learn skills and the rules of futsal.

By attending boot camp, women who have never played the game could give it a try and begin to learn skills before teams are established.

All women regardless of experience, ages 14 and up, are encouraged to participate in the boot camp and register for the league.

Registration will start at 8:30am with an entry fee of $20 that includes a team T-shirt.

The registration fee will be used to cover equipment and team shirt expenses.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI lady strikers in action in a futsal tournament in Guam last year. NMIFA will be holding a clinic later this month in preparation for the futsal league in December.

Cook Islands to host series of meetings

Amendments to the Pacific Games Council Charter will be decided later this month when the Cook Islands host five meetings in Rarotonga.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Rodgers solid as Packers beat Vikings, 24-19

Aaron Rodgers passed his first test as the Green Bay Packers' new quarterback, throwing for 178 yards and a touchdown.

24

Federer wins fifth straight Open

13th major title is one shy of Sampras

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

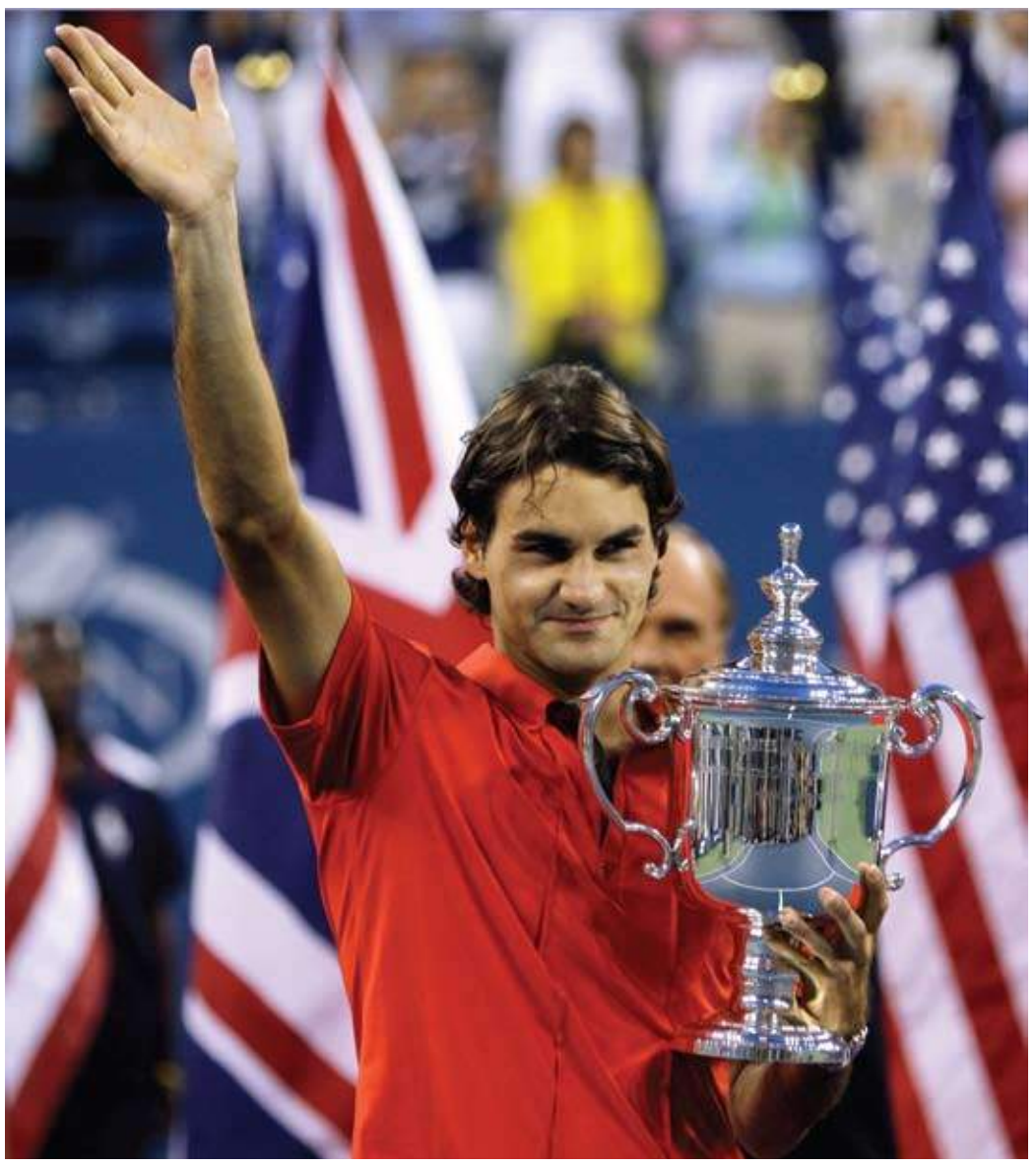
No matter what anyone else said or thought, Roger Federer knew he was still capable of elite tennis. Knew he was still capable of winning Grand Slam titles. Knew he was still Roger Federer.

Back at his best, back at the top of tennis, Federer easily beat Andy Murray 6-2, 7-5, 6-2 Monday to win his fifth consecutive U.S. Open championship and 13th major title overall.

Federer is the first man since Bill Tilden in the 1920s to win the tournament that many times in a row. He also moved within one major championship of tying Pete Sampras' career record of 14.

"One thing's for sure," Federer said in an on-court interview. "I'm not going to stop at 13. That would be terrible."

The victory clearly came as something of a relief to Federer, who has struggled during a lackluster-only-for-him season. He lost in the semifinals at the Australian Open, and to nemesis Rafael Nadal in the finals of the French Open and Wimbledon, meaning Federer was on the verge of his first year since 2002 without a major title. Plus, his 4 1/2-year reign at No. 1 ended last month when Nadal surpassed him.



AP

Roger Federer, of Switzerland, holds the championship trophy after winning the men's finals championship over Andy Murray, of Britain, at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Sept. 8, 2008.

"I had a couple of tough Grand Slams this year ... so to take this one home is incredible," Federer said after stretching his U.S. Open winning streak to 34 matches. "It means the world to me."

But the sixth-seeded Murray upset Nadal in the semifinals at Flushing Meadows to reach his first Grand Slam final, and Federer had no trouble this time—even though he had lost two of his previous three matches against the Scotsman.

"I came up against, in my opinion, the best player ever to play the game," said Murray, who tried to give Britain its first men's major champion in 72 years. "He definitely set the record straight today."

At 21, here's how young Murray is: Back when Federer was winning his first U.S. Open title in 2004, Murray was taking the U.S. Open junior trophy.

"I'm not as nervous any more,

See FEDERER on Page 26

Private school volleyball games rained out

Rains have forced the cancellation of the opening games for the 2008 Coalition of Private Schools volleyball league, which were set in different venues yesterday.

Players of Marianas Baptist Academy were seen practicing yesterday at their court, where they should have been hosting defending champion Grace Christian Academy.

The game will be played on a later date as well as six other matches for the other participating teams.

Other games that were cancelled yesterday were between CCA and SIS-B (both divisions); WPS vs. SDA (middle school); SIS Green vs. MCS (both); and SCS vs. GCA (middle school).

The games for tomorrow, Sept. 11, will be played as originally scheduled if the weather will cooperate.

CCA will be hosting MBA (H.S.), SDA vs. SIS-B (both), MCA vs. WPS (middle), SIS-G vs. GCA (both) and CCA vs. SCS (middle).

All games are scheduled to begin at 3:30pm with middle school to play first before the high school match-up. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

NMC whips Legislature, PTI wins

By ROSELYN B.MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pennant champion Northern Marianas College started its bid for a return trip to the finals on a winning note, clobbering Legislature, 82-68, Monday night during the playoff round in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMC made it to last year's government caging finals, but lost to eventual champion Autonomous (formerly Office of the Public Auditor). Next up for NMC for the second round of the playoffs in the winners' circle will be the defending champion ATM, which routed the Department of Corrections in the first round (82-68).

The other pairing in the winners' bracket will be PTI against the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

DCCA slipped past Bank of Guam last week, 83-82, while PTI won its first game in the playoffs via forfeiture over Tinian, which told organizers yesterday about its no-show in Tuesday night's game.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Northern Marianas College top gun Mark Wallace scored 20 points as the pennant champions of the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League whipped Legislature, 82-68, during their playoff match Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Monday night's match was cruise control for NMC at the start of the second period after struggling in the first quarter, which ended with the Lawmakers having a precarious one-point lead, 19-18.

When NMC began to get their rhythm in the second period with Mark Wallace leading the break, Legislature showed signs of early surrender, failing to go back to their transition defense.

The result was several easy layups for NMC and a 34-27 halftime lead.

The lead increased to 15 at the end of the third period, 61-46, as Joe Villacrusis' guns were blazing, as he fired 17 of his 21 points in that canto.

With a comfortable lead and the depleted Legislature lineup showing no signs of getting back into the game, NMC had a luxury of fielding its second stringers in

See NMC on Page 26

CPA's Pangelinan is scoring champ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Department of Public Works/Procurement & Supply's Edgar Pangelinan was named scoring champion in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League.

Pangelinan collected 265 points in seven games in the regular season to average 37.9 points per match. The DPW/P&S gunner scored 50 points twice and had the most triples of the season, hitting 11 treys in their 81-100 loss to Autonomous.

Pangelinan beat 14 other players for the scoring champion title.

Hotshot Taj Van Buren of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs averaged 28.3 points in eight games and collected 226 points in the regular season for a runner-up finish in the scoring race.

Making it to the Top 5 were Tinian's Anthony Borja,

See CPA on Page 26

MARK RABAGO

Edgar Pangelinan, seen here in a file photo from his stint with CPA, averaged 37.9 points per game en route to winning the scoring title of the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League.